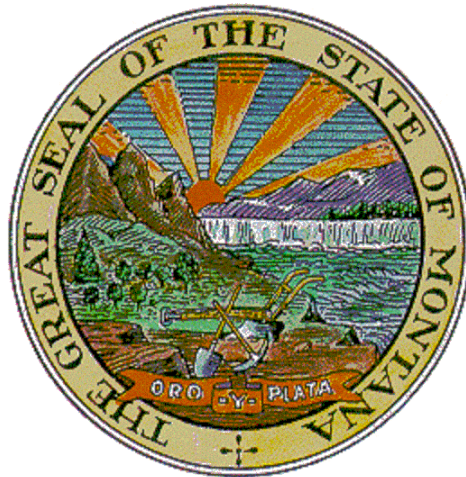


State of Montana  
Department of Labor and Industry  
Business Standards Division

DEPARTMENT AND PROGRAM STATUTES RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF  
LICENSED ADDICTION COUNSLERS



ISSUED BY:

LICENSED ADDICTION COUNSLERS PROGRAM  
301 SOUTH PARK AVE, 4TH FLOOR  
PO BOX 200513  
HELENA MT 59620 - 0513  
(406) 841-2392

WEBSITE: [www.lac.mt.gov](http://www.lac.mt.gov)  
EMAIL: [dlibsdlac@mt.gov](mailto:dlibsdlac@mt.gov)

UPDATED 2005

**MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED  
2005**

**TITLE 37  
PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS**

**CHAPTER 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Part 4 -- Uniform Regulations for Licensing  
Programs Without Boards**

- 37-1-401. Uniform regulation for licensing programs without boards -- definitions.
- 37-1-402. Unprofessional conduct -- complaint -- investigation -- immunity.
- 37-1-403. Notice -- request for hearing.
- 37-1-404. Hearing -- adjudicative procedures.
- 37-1-405. Findings of fact -- order -- report.
- 37-1-406. Sanctions -- stay -- costs -- stipulations.
- 37-1-407. Appeal.
- 37-1-408. Reinstatement.
- 37-1-409. Enforcement of fine.
- 37-1-410. Unprofessional conduct.
- 37-1-411. Practice without license -- investigation of complaint -- injunction -- penalties.
- 37-1-412. Violation of injunction -- penalty.
- 37-1-413. Department authority.

-----

**Part 4  
Uniform Regulations for Licensing Programs Without Boards**

**37-1-401. Uniform regulation for licensing programs without boards -- definitions.**

As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Complaint" means a written allegation filed with the department that, if true, warrants an injunction, disciplinary action against a licensee, or denial of an application submitted by a license applicant.
- (2) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in 2-15-1701.
- (3) "Investigation" means the inquiry, analysis, audit, or other pursuit of information by the department, with respect to a complaint or other information before the department, that is carried out for the purpose of determining:
  - (a) whether a person has violated a provision of law justifying discipline against the person;
  - (b) the status of compliance with a stipulation or order of the department;
  - (c) whether a license should be granted, denied, or conditionally issued; or
  - (d) whether the department should seek an injunction.
- (4) "License" means permission in the form of a license, permit, endorsement, certificate, recognition, or registration granted by the state of Montana to engage in a business activity or practice at a specific level in a profession or occupation governed by:
  - (a) Title 37, chapter 35, 72, or 76; or
  - (b) Title 50, chapter 39, 74, or 76.
- (5) "Profession" or "occupation" means a profession or occupation regulated by the department under the provisions of:
  - (a) Title 37, chapter 35, 72, or 76; or
  - (b) Title 50, chapter 39, 74, or 76.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 481, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 410, L. 2003.

**37-1-402. Unprofessional conduct -- complaint -- investigation -- immunity.** (1) A person, government, or private entity may submit a written complaint to the department charging a licensee or license applicant with a violation of this part and specifying the grounds for the complaint.

(2) If the department receives a written complaint or otherwise obtains information that a licensee or license applicant may have violated a requirement of this part, the department may investigate to determine whether there is reasonable cause to believe that the licensee or license applicant has committed the violation.

(3) A person or private entity, but not a government entity, filing a complaint under this section in good faith is immune from suit in a civil action related to the filing or contents of the complaint.

**History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 481, L. 1997.**

**37-1-403. Notice -- request for hearing.** (1) If the department determines that reasonable cause exists supporting the allegation made in a complaint, the department legal staff shall prepare a notice and serve the alleged violator. The notice may be served by certified mail to the current address on file with the department or by other means authorized by the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.

(2) A licensee or license applicant shall give the department the licensee's or applicant's current address and any change of address within 30 days of the change.

(3) The notice must state that the licensee or license applicant may request a hearing to contest the charge or charges. A request for a hearing must be in writing and must be received in the offices of the department within 20 days after the licensee's receipt of the notice. Failure to request a hearing constitutes a default on the charge or charges, and the department may enter a decision on the basis of the facts available to it.

**History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 481, L. 1997.**

**37-1-404. Hearing -- adjudicative procedures.** The procedures in Title 2, chapter 4, governing adjudicative proceedings before agencies, the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Montana Rules of Evidence govern a hearing under this part. The department has all the powers and duties granted by Title 2, chapter 4.

**History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 481, L. 1997.**

**37-1-405. Findings of fact -- order -- report.** (1) If the department finds by a preponderance of the evidence, following a hearing or on default, that a violation of this part has occurred, the department shall prepare and serve findings of fact, conclusions of law, and an order as provided in Title 2, chapter 4. If the licensee or license applicant is found not to have violated this part, the department shall prepare and serve an order of dismissal of the charges.

(2) The department may report the issuance of a notice and final order to:

(a) the person or entity who brought to the department's attention information that resulted in the initiation of the proceeding;

(b) appropriate public and private organizations that serve the profession or occupation; and

(c) the public.

**History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 481, L. 1997.**

**37-1-406. Sanctions -- stay -- costs -- stipulations.** (1) Upon a decision that a licensee or license applicant has violated this part or is unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety due to a physical or mental condition or upon stipulation of the parties as provided in subsection (4), the department may issue an order providing for one or any combination of the following sanctions:

(a) revocation of the license;

(b) suspension of the license for a fixed or indefinite term;

(c) restriction or limitation of the practice;

(d) satisfactory completion of a specific program of remedial education or treatment;

(e) monitoring of the practice by a supervisor approved by the disciplining authority;

(f) censure or reprimand, either public or private;

(g) compliance with conditions of probation for a designated period of time;

(h) payment of a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation;

(i) denial of a license application;

(j) refund of costs and fees billed to and collected from a consumer.

(2) Any fine collected by the department as a result of disciplinary actions must be deposited in the state general fund.

(3) A sanction may be totally or partly stayed by the department. To determine which sanctions are appropriate, the department shall first consider the sanctions that are necessary to protect or compensate the public. Only after the determination has been made may the department consider and include in the order any requirements designed to rehabilitate the licensee or license applicant.

(4) The licensee or license applicant may enter into a stipulated agreement resolving potential or pending charges that includes one or more of the sanctions in this section. The stipulation is an informal disposition for the purposes of 2-4-603.

(5) A licensee shall surrender a suspended or revoked license to the department within 24 hours after receiving notification of the suspension or revocation by mailing the license or delivering it personally to the department.

**History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 481, L. 1997.**

**37-1-407. Appeal.** A person who is disciplined or denied a license may appeal the decision to the district court as provided in Title 2, chapter 4.

**History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 481, L. 1997.**

**37-1-408. Reinstatement.** A licensee whose license has been suspended or revoked under this part may petition the department for reinstatement after an interval set by the department in the order. The department may hold a hearing on the petition and may deny the petition or order reinstatement and impose terms and conditions as provided in 37-1-312. The department may require the successful completion of an examination as a condition of reinstatement and may treat a licensee whose license has been revoked or suspended as a new applicant for purposes of establishing the requisite qualifications of licensure.

**History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 481, L. 1997.**

**37-1-409. Enforcement of fine.** (1) If payment of a fine is included in an order and timely payment is not made as directed in the order, the department may enforce the order for payment in the district court of the first judicial district.

(2) In a proceeding for enforcement of an order of payment of a fine, the order is conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms of payment.

**History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 481, L. 1997.**

**37-1-410. Unprofessional conduct.** The following is unprofessional conduct for a licensee or license applicant governed by this chapter:

(1) being convicted, including a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere and regardless of a pending appeal, of a crime relating to or committed during the course of practicing the person's profession or occupation or involving violence, the use or sale of drugs, fraud, deceit, or theft;

(2) permitting, aiding, abetting, or conspiring with a person to violate or circumvent a law relating to licensure or certification;

(3) fraud, misrepresentation, deception, or concealment of a material fact in applying for or assisting in securing a license or license renewal or in taking an examination required for licensure;

(4) signing or issuing, in the licensee's professional capacity, a document or statement that the licensee knows or reasonably ought to know contains a false or misleading statement;

(5) making a misleading, deceptive, false, or fraudulent advertisement or other representation in the conduct of the profession or occupation;

(6) offering, giving, or promising anything of value or benefit to a federal, state, or local government employee or official for the purpose of influencing the employee or official to circumvent a federal, state, or local law, rule, or ordinance governing the licensee's profession or occupation;

(7) the denial, suspension, revocation, probation, fine, or other license restriction or discipline against a licensee by a state, province, territory, or Indian tribal government or the federal government if the action is not on appeal or under judicial review or has been satisfied.

(8) failure to comply with a term, condition, or limitation of a license by final order of the department;

(9) having a physical or mental disability that renders the licensee or license applicant unable to practice the profession or occupation with reasonable skill and safety;

(10) misappropriating property or funds from a client or workplace or failing to comply with the department's rule regarding the accounting and distribution of a client's property or funds;

(11) interference with an investigation or disciplinary proceeding by willful misrepresentation of facts, failure to respond to department inquiries regarding a complaint against the licensee or license applicant, or the use of threats or harassment against or inducement to a client or witness to prevent them from providing evidence in a disciplinary proceeding or other legal action or use of threats or harassment against or inducement to a person to prevent or attempt to prevent a disciplinary proceeding or other legal action from being filed, prosecuted, or completed;

(12) assisting in the unlicensed practice of a profession or occupation or allowing another person or organization to practice or offer to practice the profession or occupation by use of the licensee's license.

**History:** En. Sec. 10, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

**37-1-411. Practice without license -- investigation of complaint -- injunction -- penalties.** (1) The department may investigate a complaint or other information received concerning practice by an unlicensed person of a profession or occupation governed by this part.

(2) The department may file an action to enjoin a person from practicing, without a license, a profession or occupation governed by this part.

**History:** En. Sec. 11, Ch. 481, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 230, L. 1999.

**37-1-412. Violation of injunction -- penalty.** (1) A person who has been enjoined and who violates an injunction issued pursuant to a proceeding under this part may be held in contempt of court and shall pay a civil penalty, as determined by the court, of not more than \$5,000. Fifty percent of the penalty must be deposited in the general fund of the county in which the injunction is issued, and 50% must be deposited in the state general fund.

(2) A person subject to an injunction for practicing without a license may also be subject to criminal prosecution. In a complaint for an injunction or in an affidavit, information, or indictment alleging that a person has engaged in unlicensed practice, it is sufficient to charge that the person engaged in the unlicensed practice of a licensed profession or occupation on a certain day in a certain county without averring further or more particular facts concerning the violation.

(3) Unless otherwise provided by statute, a person practicing a licensed profession or occupation in this state without complying with the licensing provisions of this title is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$250 or more than \$1,000, imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 90 days or more than 1 year, or both. Each violation of the provisions of this chapter constitutes a separate offense.

**History:** En. Sec. 12, Ch. 481, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 230, L. 1999.

**37-1-413. Department authority.** For each licensing program regulated by the department under this part, the department is designated as a criminal justice agency within the meaning of 44-5-103 for the purpose of obtaining confidential criminal justice information regarding licensees and license applicants and regarding possible unlicensed practice.

**History:** En. Sec. 4, Ch. 230, L. 1999.

## **CHAPTER 2 GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS**

### **Part 1 -- Dispensing of Drugs**

37-2-101. Definitions.

37-2-102. Practices declared unlawful between drug companies and medical practitioners.

37-2-103. Practices declared unlawful between medical practitioners and pharmacies.

37-2-104. Dispensing of drugs by medical practitioners unlawful -- exceptions.

37-2-105. Duty of county attorneys.

37-2-106. Existing ownership of pharmacy.

37-2-107. Civil penalty for unreadable prescription.

37-2-108 through 37-2-110 reserved.

37-2-111. Repealed.

### **Part 2 -- Nonliability for Peer Review**

37-2-201. Nonliability -- evidential privilege -- application to nonprofit corporations.

## Part 3 -- Miscellaneous Provisions

- 37-2-301. Duty to report cases of communicable disease.
- 37-2-302. Gunshot or stab wounds to be reported.
- 37-2-303. Immunity from liability.
- 37-2-304 through 37-2-310 reserved.
- 37-2-311. Report to department of justice by physician.
- 37-2-312. Physician's immunity from liability.
- 37-2-313 and 37-2-314 reserved.
- 37-2-315. Direct billing for anatomic pathology services.

-----

### Part 1 Dispensing of Drugs

#### Part Cross-References

- Pharmacy, Title 37, ch. 7.
- Dangerous drugs, Title 45, ch. 9.
- Model Drug Paraphernalia Act, Title 45, ch. 10.
- Controlled substances, Title 50, ch. 32.

#### **37-2-101. Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Community pharmacy", when used in relation to a medical practitioner, means a pharmacy situated within 10 miles of any place at which the medical practitioner maintains an office for professional practice.
- (2) "Device" means any instrument, apparatus, or contrivance intended:
  - (a) for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans;
  - (b) to affect the structure or any function of the body of humans.
- (3) "Drug" has the same meaning as provided in 37-7-101.
- (4) "Drug company" means any person engaged in the manufacturing, processing, packaging, or distribution of drugs. The term does not include a pharmacy.
- (5) "Medical practitioner" means any person licensed by the state of Montana to engage in the practice of medicine, dentistry, osteopathy, podiatry, optometry, or a nursing specialty as described in 37-8-202 and in the licensed practice to administer or prescribe drugs.
- (6) "Person" means any individual and any partnership, firm, corporation, association, or other business entity.
- (7) "Pharmacy" has the same meaning as provided in 37-7-101.
- (8) "State" means the state of Montana or any political subdivision of the state.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 311, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 27-901; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 379, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 588, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 444, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 388, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 467, L. 2005.

#### **37-2-102. Practices declared unlawful between drug companies and medical practitioners.** It shall be unlawful:

- (1) for a drug company to give or sell to a medical practitioner any legal or beneficial interest in the company or in the income thereof with the intent or for the purpose of inducing such medical practitioner to prescribe to his patients the drugs of the company. The giving or selling of such interest by the company to a medical practitioner without such interest first having been publicly offered to the general public shall be prima facie evidence of such intent or purpose.
- (2) for a medical practitioner to acquire or own a legal or beneficial interest in any drug company, provided it shall not be unlawful for a medical practitioner to acquire or own such an interest solely for investment; and the acquisition of an interest which is publicly offered to the general public shall be prima facie evidence of its acquisition solely for investment;
- (3) for a medical practitioner to solicit or to knowingly receive from a drug company or for a drug company to pay or to promise to pay to a medical practitioner any rebate, refund, discount, commission, or other valuable consideration for, on account of, or based upon the volume of

wholesale or retail sales, at any place, of drugs manufactured, processed, packaged, or distributed by the company.

**History:** En. Sec. 2, Ch. 311, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 27-902.

**37-2-103. Practices declared unlawful between medical practitioners and pharmacies.** (1) It shall be unlawful for a medical practitioner to own, directly or indirectly, a community pharmacy. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a medical practitioner from dispensing a drug which he is permitted to dispense under 37-2-104.

(2) It shall be unlawful for a medical practitioner directly or indirectly to solicit or to knowingly receive from a community pharmacy or for a community pharmacy knowingly to pay or promise to pay to a medical practitioner any rebate, refund, discount, commission, or other valuable consideration for, on account of, or based upon income received or resulting from the sale or furnishing by such community pharmacy of drugs to patients of any medical practitioner.

**History:** En. Sec. 4, Ch. 311, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 27-904.

**37-2-104. Dispensing of drugs by medical practitioners unlawful -- exceptions.** (1) Except as otherwise provided by this section, it is unlawful for a medical practitioner to engage, directly or indirectly, in the dispensing of drugs.

(2) This section does not prohibit:

(a) a medical practitioner from furnishing a patient any drug in an emergency;  
(b) the administration of a unit dose of a drug to a patient by or under the supervision of a medical practitioner;

(c) dispensing a drug to a patient by a medical practitioner whenever there is no community pharmacy available to the patient;

(d) the dispensing of drugs occasionally, but not as a usual course of doing business, by a medical practitioner;

(e) a medical practitioner from dispensing drug samples;

(f) the dispensing of factory prepackaged oral contraceptives by a registered nurse employed by a family planning clinic under contract with the department of public health and human services if the dispensing is in accordance with:

(i) a physician's written protocol specifying the circumstances under which dispensing is appropriate; and

(ii) the drug labeling, storage, and recordkeeping requirements of the board of pharmacy;

(g) a contract physician at an urban Indian clinic from dispensing drugs to qualified patients of the clinic. The clinic may not stock or dispense any dangerous drug, as defined in 50-32-101, or any controlled substance. The contract physician may not delegate the authority to dispense any drug for which a prescription is required under 21 U.S.C. 353(b).

**History:** En. Sec. 3, Ch. 311, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 27-903; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 472, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 445, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

**37-2-105. Duty of county attorneys.** It shall be the duty of the county attorneys in the counties of the state, under the direction of the attorney general, to institute appropriate proceedings to prevent and restrain such violations. Such proceedings may be by way of complaint setting forth the case and praying that such violation shall be enjoined or otherwise prohibited. Upon the filing of a complaint under this section and the service thereof upon the defendants named therein, the court shall proceed as soon as possible to the hearing and determination of the action.

**History:** En. Sec. 5, Ch. 311, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 27-905.

### **Cross-References**

Duty of Attorney General to supervise County Attorneys, 2-15-501.

Duties of County Attorneys generally, Title 7, ch. 4, part 27.

Injunctions, Rule 65, M.R.Civ.P. (see Title 25, ch. 20).

Injunctions generally, Title 27, ch. 19.

**37-2-106. Existing ownership of pharmacy.** The provisions of 37-2-103(1) shall not apply to a medical practitioner as to any interest which he owns as set forth in said subsection on July 1, 1971, provided that transfer of this interest to another person shall result in immediate termination of such exemption.

**History:** En. Sec. 6, Ch. 311, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 27-906.

## Cross-References

Store license for pharmacy, 37-7-321.

**37-2-107. Civil penalty for unreadable prescription.** (1) A medical practitioner may not issue a written prescription, to be delivered to a patient or pharmacy, in such a manner that the name of the drug, the dosage, the instructions for use, the printed name or other identifying letters or numbers unique to the medical practitioner, and, if required, the federal drug enforcement agency identifying number cannot be read by a registered pharmacist licensed to practice in this state.

(2) Any person may file a complaint alleging a violation of subsection (1) with the board that licensed the medical practitioner who issued the prescription. The board may investigate the complaint and take any action and impose any sanction allowed by the statutes relating to the board and rules adopted by the board. Each board licensing a medical practitioner shall adopt rules to implement this section.

(3) The board may refer the complaint to the county attorney of the county in which the prescription was issued, whether or not the board itself has taken any action or imposed any sanction. A county attorney may not file an action alleging a violation of subsection (1) unless a complaint has been referred to the county attorney by the medical practitioner's licensing board.

(4) A medical practitioner who violates subsection (1) is guilty of a civil offense and may be punished by a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for each prescription.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 436, L. 2005.

**37-2-108 through 37-2-110 reserved.**

**37-2-111. Repealed.** Sec. 75, Ch. 492, L. 2001.

**History:** En. Sec. 6, Ch. 202, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3194, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3194, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 101, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1516.

## Part 2 Nonliability for Peer Review

### Part Cross-References

Libel and slander, Title 27, ch. 1, part 8.

Montana Medical Legal Panel created, 27-6-104.

Licensing investigation and review -- record access, 37-1-135.

Reporting obligations of physicians, Title 37, ch. 3, part 4.

Health care information, Title 50, ch. 16.

**37-2-201. Nonliability -- evidential privilege -- application to nonprofit corporations.** (1) No member of a utilization review or medical ethics review committee of a hospital or long-term care facility or of a professional utilization committee, peer review committee, medical ethics review committee, or professional standards review committee of a society composed of persons licensed to practice a health care profession is liable in damages to any person for any action taken or recommendation made within the scope of the functions of the committee if the committee member acts without malice and in the reasonable belief that the action or recommendation is warranted by the facts known to him after reasonable effort to obtain the facts of the matter for which the action is taken or a recommendation is made.

(2) The proceedings and records of professional utilization, peer review, medical ethics review, and professional standards review committees are not subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any proceeding. However, information otherwise discoverable or admissible from an original source is not to be construed as immune from discovery or use in any proceeding merely because it was presented during proceedings before the committee, nor is a member of the committee or other person appearing before it to be prevented from testifying as to matters within his knowledge, but he cannot be questioned about his testimony or other proceedings before the committee or about opinions or other actions of the committee or any member thereof.

(3) This section also applies to any member, agent, or employee of a nonprofit corporation engaged in performing the functions of a peer review, medical ethics review, or professional standards review committee.

**History:** En. 66-1052 by Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 267, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1052; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 22, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 380, L. 1989.

## Part 3 Miscellaneous Provisions

### Part Cross-References

Doctor-patient privilege, 26-1-805.  
Libel and slander, Title 27, ch. 1, part 8.  
Report of fetal death that occurs outside licensed medical facility, 46-4-114.  
Communicable disease defined, 50-1-101.  
Powers of Department relating to communicable diseases, 50-1-202.  
Report of exposure to infectious disease, Title 50, ch. 16, part 7.  
Report of exposure to infectious disease -- immunity from liability, 50-16-704.  
Revocation, suspension, or cancellation of driver's license, Title 61, ch. 5, part 2.

**37-2-301. Duty to report cases of communicable disease.** (1) If a physician or other practitioner of the healing arts examines or treats a person who the physician or other practitioner believes has a communicable disease or a disease declared reportable by the department of public health and human services, the physician or other practitioner shall immediately report the case to the local health officer. The report must be in the form and contain the information prescribed by the department.

(2) A person who violates the provisions of this section or rules adopted by the department under the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. On conviction, the person shall be fined not less than \$10 or more than \$500, imprisoned for not more than 90 days, or both. Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense. Fines, except those collected by a justice's court, must be paid to the county treasurer of the county in which the violation occurs.

**History:** (1)En. Sec. 91, Ch. 197, L. 1967; Sec. 69-4514, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 96, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 273, L. 1975; Sec. 69-4519, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4514, 69-4519(part); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

### Cross-References

Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.

**37-2-302. Gunshot or stab wounds to be reported.** The physician, nurse, or other person licensed to practice a health care profession treating the victim of a gunshot wound or stabbing shall make a report to a law enforcement officer by the fastest possible means. Within 24 hours after initial treatment or first observation of the wound, a written report shall be submitted, including the name and address of the victim, if known, and shall be sent by regular mail.

**History:** En. 66-1050 by Sec. 1, Ch. 303, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1050.

**37-2-303. Immunity from liability.** A physician or other person reporting pursuant to 37-2-302 shall be presumed to be acting in good faith and in so doing shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, unless he acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.

**History:** En. 66-1051 by Sec. 2, Ch. 303, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1051.

**37-2-304 through 37-2-310 reserved.**

**37-2-311. Report to department of justice by physician.** (1) Any physician who diagnoses a physical or mental condition that, in the physician's judgment, will significantly impair a person's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle may voluntarily report the person's name and other information relevant to his condition to the department of justice. The department, upon receiving the report, shall require the person so reported to be examined or investigated as provided for in 61-5-207.

(2) (a) The physician's report may be introduced as evidence in any proceeding involving the granting, suspension, or revocation of the person's driver's license, driving privilege, or commercial driver's license before the department or a court.

(b) The physician's report may not be utilized in a criminal proceeding or in a civil proceeding, other than as provided in this subsection, without the consent of the patient.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 419, L. 1991.

**37-2-312. Physician's immunity from liability.** Any physician reporting in good faith is immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that otherwise might result by reason of his actions pursuant to 37-2-311 except for damages occasioned by gross negligence. No action may be brought against a physician for not making a report pursuant to 37-2-311.

**History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 126, L. 1983.**

**37-2-313 and 37-2-314 reserved.**

**37-2-315. Direct billing for anatomic pathology services.** (1) A clinical laboratory or physician providing anatomic pathology services for a patient may present a bill or demand for payment for services furnished by the laboratory or physician only to the following entities:

- (a) the patient;
- (b) the patient's insurer or other third-party payor;
- (c) the health care facility ordering the services;
- (d) a referring laboratory, other than a laboratory in which the patient's physician or other practitioner of the healing arts has a financial interest; or
- (e) a state or federal agency or the agent of that agency, on behalf of the patient.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (5), a physician or other practitioner of the healing arts licensed pursuant to Title 37 may not directly or indirectly bill or charge for or solicit payment for anatomic pathology services unless those services were provided personally by the physician or other practitioner or under the direct supervision of a physician providing that supervision for the purposes of 42 U.S.C. 263a.

(3) The following entities are not required to reimburse a physician for a bill or charge made in violation of this section:

- (a) a patient;
- (b) an insurer;
- (c) a health care facility; or
- (d) another third-party payor.

(4) This section does not require an assignment of benefits for anatomic pathology services.

(5) This section does not prohibit billing between laboratories, other than laboratories in which the patient's physician or other practitioner of the healing arts has a financial interest, for anatomic pathology services in instances requiring that a sample be sent to a specialist at another laboratory.

(6) This section does not prohibit a clinical laboratory or physician providing anatomic pathology services for a patient from presenting a bill or demand for payment for those services or presenting separate bills or demands for payment to a payor when allowed by this section.

(7) The licensing entity for a physician or other practitioner of the healing arts licensed pursuant to Title 37 may revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew the license of a physician or other practitioner of the healing arts who violates a provision of this section.

(8) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

- (a) "Anatomic pathology services" means:
  - (i) histopathology or surgical pathology, meaning the gross examination of, histologic processing of, or microscopic examination of human organ tissue performed by a physician or under the supervision of a physician;
  - (ii) cytopathology, meaning the examination of human cells, from fluids, aspirates, washings, brushings, or smears, including the pap test examination performed by a physician or under the supervision of a physician;
  - (iii) hematology, meaning the microscopic evaluation of human bone marrow aspirates and biopsies performed by a physician or under the supervision of a physician and peripheral human blood smears when the attending or treating physician or other practitioner of the healing arts or a technologist requests that a blood smear be reviewed by a pathologist;
  - (iv) subcellular pathology and molecular pathology; or
  - (v) blood bank services performed by a pathologist.
- (b) "Clinical laboratory" or "laboratory" means a facility for the biological, microbiological, serological, chemical, immunohematological, hematological, biophysical, cytological, pathological, or other examination of materials derived from the human body for the purpose of providing information for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of any disease or impairment of human beings or the assessment of the health of human beings.

- (c) "Health care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.  
(d) "Insurer" includes a disability insurer, a health services corporation, a health maintenance organization, and a fraternal benefit society.  
(e) "Patient" has the meaning provided in 50-16-504.  
(f) "Physician" has the meaning provided in 37-3-102.  
**History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 266, L. 2005.**

## **CHAPTER 35 CERTIFICATION OF ADDICTION COUNSELORS**

### **Part 1 -- General**

- 37-35-101. Purpose.  
37-35-102. Definitions.  
37-35-103. Department powers and duties.

### **Part 2 -- Certification**

- 37-35-201. License required -- exceptions.  
37-35-202. Licensure requirements -- examination -- fees.  
37-35-203. Repealed.

### **Part 3 -- Regulation**

- 37-35-301. Unprofessional conduct complaint -- sanctions.  
37-35-302. Penalty.  
37-35-303. Deposit of fees.  
37-35-304. Transition -- transfer of license.

-----

### **Chapter Cross-References**

- Mandatory dangerous drug information course, 45-9-208, 45-10-108.  
Alcoholism and drug dependence, Title 53, ch. 24.  
Penalty for driving under influence of alcohol or drugs, 61-8-714.

### **Part 1 General**

**37-35-101. Purpose.** The legislature finds and declares that because the profession of addiction counseling profoundly affects the lives of people of this state, it is the purpose of this chapter to provide for the common good by ensuring the ethical, qualified, and professional practice of addiction counseling. This chapter and the rules promulgated under 37-35-103 set standards of qualification, education, training, and experience and establish professional ethics for those who seek to engage in the practice of addiction counseling as licensed addiction counselors.

**History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 507, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 23, L. 2001.**

**37-35-102. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Accredited college or university" means a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting association for institutions of higher learning.
- (2) "Addiction" means the condition or state in which an individual is physiologically or psychologically dependent upon alcohol or other drugs. The term includes chemical dependency as defined in 53-24-103.
- (3) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in 2-15-1701.
- (4) "Licensed addiction counselor" means a person who has the knowledge and skill necessary to provide the therapeutic process of addiction counseling and who is licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

**History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 507, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 23, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 140, Ch. 483, L. 2001.**

- 37-35-103. Department powers and duties.** (1) The department shall:
- (a) license and renew the licenses of qualified applicants;
  - (b) adopt rules:
    - (i) for eligibility requirements and competency standards;
    - (ii) defining any unprofessional conduct that is not included in 37-1-410; and
    - (iii) setting criteria for training programs, internships, and continuing education requirements to ensure the quality of addiction counseling.
  - (2) The department may:
    - (a) adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this chapter;
    - (b) adopt rules specifying the scope of addiction counseling that are consistent with the education required by 37-35-202; and
    - (c) establish licensure requirements and procedures that the department considers appropriate.

**History:** En. Sec. 3, Ch. 507, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 23, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 467, L. 2005.

## **Cross-References**

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

## **Part 2 Certification**

**37-35-201. License required -- exceptions.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person may not practice addiction counseling or represent to the public that the person is a licensed addiction counselor unless the person is licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

(2) This chapter does not prohibit an activity or service:

(a) performed by a qualified member of a profession, such as a physician, lawyer, licensed professional counselor, licensed social worker, licensed psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, nurse, probation officer, court employee, pastoral counselor, or school counselor, consistent with the person's licensure or certification and the code of ethics of the person's profession, as long as the person does not represent by title that the person is a licensed addiction counselor. If a person is a qualified member of a profession that is not licensed or certified or for which there is no applicable code of ethics, this section does not prohibit an activity or service of the profession as long as the person does not represent by title that the person is a licensed addiction counselor.

(b) of, or use of an official title by, a person employed or acting as a volunteer for a federal, state, county, or municipal agency or an educational, research, or charitable institution if that activity or service or use of that title is a part of the duties of the office or position;

(c) of an employee of a business establishment performed solely for the benefit of the establishment's employees;

(d) of a student, intern, or resident in addiction counseling who is pursuing a course of study at an accredited college or university or who is working in a generally recognized training center if the activity or service constitutes part of the course of study;

(e) of a person who is not a resident of this state if the activity or service is rendered for a period that does not exceed, in the aggregate, 60 days during a calendar year and if the person is authorized under the laws of the state or country of residence to perform the activity or service. However, the person shall report to the department the nature and extent of the activity or service if it exceeds 10 days in a calendar year.

(f) of a person who is working to satisfactorily complete supervised addiction counseling experience required for licensure.

(3) This chapter is not intended to limit, preclude, or interfere with the practice of other persons and health care providers licensed by the appropriate agencies of the state of Montana.

**History:** En. Sec. 4, Ch. 507, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 23, L. 2001.

**37-35-202. Licensure requirements -- examination -- fees.** (1) To be eligible for licensure as a licensed addiction counselor, the applicant shall submit an application fee in an amount established by the department by rule and a written application on a form provided by the department that demonstrates that the applicant has completed the eligibility requirements and competency standards as defined by department rule.

(2) A person may apply for licensure as a licensed addiction counselor if the person has:

(a) received a baccalaureate or advanced degree in alcohol and drug studies, psychology, sociology, social work, or counseling, or a comparable degree from an accredited college or university; or

(b) received an associate of arts degree in alcohol and drug studies, addiction, or substance abuse from an accredited institution.

(3) Prior to becoming eligible to begin the examination process, each person shall complete supervised work experience in an addiction treatment program as defined by the department, in an internship approved by the department, or in a similar program recognized under the laws of another state.

(4) Each applicant shall successfully complete a competency examination, in writing only, as defined by rules adopted by the department.

(5) A person holding a license to practice as a licensed addiction counselor in this state may use the title "licensed addiction counselor".

(6) For the purposes of this section, "comparable degree" means a degree with accredited college course work, of which 6 credit hours must be in human behavior, sociology, psychology, or a similar emphasis, 3 credit hours must be in psychopathology or course work exploring patterns and courses of abnormal or deviant behavior, and 9 credit hours must be in counseling. For the 9 credit hours in counseling, 6 credit hours must be in group counseling and 3 credit hours must be in the theory of counseling. The credit hours specified in this subsection may be obtained in an associate or master's degree program if the applicant does not have a qualifying baccalaureate degree.

**History:** En. Sec. 5, Ch. 507, L. 1997; amd. Secs. 9, 10, Ch. 23, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 126, L. 2005.

**37-35-203. Repealed.** Sec. 127, Ch. 467, L. 2005.

**History:** En. Sec. 6, Ch. 507, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 23, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 271, L. 2003.

### **Part 3 Regulation**

**37-35-301. Unprofessional conduct complaint -- sanctions.** (1) A formal complaint alleging unprofessional conduct by a licensed addiction counselor may be directed to the department. The charges must be made by an affidavit, subscribed and sworn to by the person making it, and filed with the department.

(2) The complaint may allege any unprofessional conduct contained in 37-1-316 or as further defined by department rule that constitutes a threat to the public health, safety, or welfare and that is inappropriate to the practice of a licensed addiction counselor.

(3) The director of the department shall appoint a review panel to investigate a complaint of unprofessional conduct directed to the department. The panel must consist of:

- (a) two licensed addiction counselors;
- (b) one employee of the department; and
- (c) two members of the public.

(4) The panel shall recommend to the department either that the person be cleared of any charges or that a sanction or combination of sanctions contained in 37-1-312 be imposed.

(5) For the purposes of this section, the department is vested with a board's authority for the purposes of the procedures in 37-1-307 through 37-1-318 regarding unprofessional conduct, and 37-1-301 through 37-1-318 apply to any proceeding under this section.

**History:** En. Sec. 7, Ch. 507, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 23, L. 2001.

**37-35-302. Penalty.** A person convicted of violating any provision of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$500, be imprisoned in a county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both.

**History:** En. Sec. 8, Ch. 507, L. 1997.

**37-35-303. Deposit of fees.** All fees and money received by the department must be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of a state special revenue fund for use by the department in its performance of its duties under this chapter.

**History:** En. Sec. 9, Ch. 507, L. 1997.

**37-35-304. Transition -- transfer of license.** The department shall grant a license to practice as a licensed addiction counselor without the need for further application or other

requirements to those persons holding a current, unrestricted certificate as a certified chemical dependency counselor as of October 1, 2001, that was issued by the state.

**History:** En. Sec. 10, Ch. 507, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 23, L. 2001.

## **TITLE 50 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **CHAPTER 16 HEALTH CARE INFORMATION**

#### **Part 1 -- General Provisions**

- 50-16-101. Public officials and corporations to furnish information on request.
- 50-16-102. Information on infant morbidity and mortality.

#### **Part 2 -- Professional Review Committees**

- 50-16-201. Definitions.
- 50-16-202. Committees to have access to information.
- 50-16-203. Committee health care information and proceedings confidential and privileged.
- 50-16-204. Restrictions on use or publication of information.
- 50-16-205. Data confidential -- inadmissible in judicial proceedings.

#### **Part 3 -- Confidentiality of Health Care Information (Repealed)**

#### **Part 4 -- Health Information Center (Repealed)**

#### **Part 5 -- Uniform Health Care Information**

- 50-16-501. Short title.
- 50-16-502. Legislative findings.
- 50-16-503. Uniformity of application and construction.
- 50-16-504. Definitions.
- 50-16-505. Limit on applicability.
- 50-16-506 through 50-16-510 reserved.
- 50-16-511. Duty to adopt security safeguards.
- 50-16-512. Content and dissemination of notice.
- 50-16-513. Retention of record.
- 50-16-514 through 50-16-520 reserved.
- 50-16-521. Health care representatives.
- 50-16-522. Representative of deceased patient.
- 50-16-523 and 50-16-524 reserved.
- 50-16-525. Disclosure by health care provider.
- 50-16-526. Patient authorization to health care provider for disclosure.
- 50-16-527. Patient authorization -- retention -- effective period -- exception -- communication without prior notice for workers' compensation purposes.
- 50-16-528. Patient's revocation of authorization for disclosure.
- 50-16-529. Disclosure without patient's authorization based on need to know.
- 50-16-530. Disclosure without patient's authorization.
- 50-16-531. Immunity of health care providers pursuant to written authorization -- form required.
- 50-16-532 through 50-16-534 reserved.
- 50-16-535. When health care information available by compulsory process.
- 50-16-536. Method of compulsory process.
- 50-16-537 through 50-16-539 reserved.
- 50-16-540. Reasonable fees allowed.
- 50-16-541. Requirements and procedures for patient's examination and copying.

- 50-16-542. Denial of examination and copying.
- 50-16-543. Request for correction or amendment.
- 50-16-544. Procedure for adding correction, amendment, or statement of disagreement.
- 50-16-545. Dissemination of corrected or amended information or statement of disagreement.
- 50-16-546 through 50-16-550 reserved.
- 50-16-551. Criminal penalty.
- 50-16-552. Civil enforcement.
- 50-16-553. Civil remedies.

## **Part 6 -- Government Health Care Information**

- 50-16-601. Short title.
- 50-16-602. Definitions.
- 50-16-603. Confidentiality of health care information.
- 50-16-604. Secondary release of health care information.
- 50-16-605. Judicial, legislative, and administrative proceedings -- testimony.
- 50-16-606. Correlation with Uniform Health Care Information Act.
- 50-16-607 through 50-16-610 reserved.
- 50-16-611. Penalty.

## **Part 7 -- Report of Exposure to Infectious Disease**

- 50-16-701. Definitions.
- 50-16-702. Notification of exposure to infectious disease -- report of exposure to disease.
- 50-16-703. Notification of precautions after exposure to infectious disease.
- 50-16-704. Confidentiality -- penalty for violation -- immunity from liability.
- 50-16-705. Rulemaking authority.
- 50-16-706 through 50-16-710 reserved.
- 50-16-711. Health care facility and emergency services organization responsibilities for tracking exposure to infectious disease.
- 50-16-712. Notification to mortuary personnel -- exposure to infectious disease.

## **Part 8 -- Health Care Information Privacy Requirements for Providers Subject to HIPAA**

- 50-16-801. Legislative findings.
- 50-16-802. Applicability.
- 50-16-803. Definitions.
- 50-16-804. Representative of deceased patient's estate.
- 50-16-805. Disclosure of information for workers' compensation and occupational disease claims and law enforcement purposes.
- 50-16-806 through 50-16-810 reserved.
- 50-16-811. When health care information available by compulsory process.
- 50-16-812. Method of compulsory process.
- 50-16-813 through 50-16-815 reserved.
- 50-16-816. Reasonable fees.
- 50-16-817. Civil remedies.
- 50-16-818. Good faith.

## **Part 9 reserved**

## **Part 10 -- AIDS Education and Prevention**

- 50-16-1001. Short title.
- 50-16-1002. Statement of purpose.
- 50-16-1003. Definitions.
- 50-16-1004. AIDS, HIV-related conditions, and HIV infection to be treated as other communicable diseases.
- 50-16-1005 and 50-16-1006 reserved.

50-16-1007. Testing -- counseling -- informed consent -- penalty.  
50-16-1008. Testing of donors of organs, tissues, and semen required -- penalty.  
50-16-1009. Confidentiality of records -- notification of contacts -- penalty for unlawful disclosure.  
50-16-1010 through 50-16-1012 reserved.  
50-16-1013. Civil remedy.

-----

## Part 1 General Provisions

**50-16-101. Public officials and corporations to furnish information on request.** On request, employees and officers of firms and corporations and public officials shall furnish public health information to the department of public health and human services.

**History:** En. Sec. 14, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4114; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 284, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

**50-16-102. Information on infant morbidity and mortality.** (1) If information on infant morbidity and mortality will be used to reduce those problems, data relating to the condition and treatment of any person may be given to the department of public health and human services, Montana medical association, an allied society of the Montana medical association, a committee of a nationally organized medical society or research group, or an in-hospital staff committee.

(2) A person who furnishes information under subsection (1) is immune from suit for damages arising from the release of the data or publication of findings and conclusions based on the data.

(3) Data supplied under subsection (1) may be used or published only for advancing medical research or medical education in the interest of reducing infant morbidity or mortality. A summary of studies based on the data may be released for general publication.

(4) The identity of a person whose condition or treatment was studied is confidential and may not be revealed under any circumstances.

(5) Any data supplied or studies based on this data are privileged communications and may not be used as evidence in any legal proceeding. Any attempt to use or offer to supply the data or studies, without consent of the person treated or the person's legal representative, is prejudicial error resulting in a mistrial.

**History:** En. Sec. 15, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4115; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 285, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

## Part 2 Professional Review Committees

**50-16-201. Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Data" means written reports, notes, or records or oral reports or proceedings created by or at the request of a utilization review, peer review, medical ethics review, quality assurance, or quality improvement committee of a health care facility that are used exclusively in connection with quality assessment or improvement activities, including the professional training, supervision, or discipline of a medical practitioner by a health care facility.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) incident reports or occurrence reports; or

(ii) health care information that is used in whole or in part to make decisions about an individual who is the subject of the health care information.

(2) "Health care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.

(3) (a) "Incident reports" or "occurrence reports" means a written business record of a health care facility, created in response to an untoward event, such as a patient injury, adverse outcome, or interventional error, for the purpose of ensuring a prompt evaluation of the event.

(b) The terms do not include any subsequent evaluation of the event in response to an incident report or occurrence report by a utilization review, peer review, medical ethics review, quality assurance, or quality improvement committee.

(4) "Medical practitioner" means an individual licensed by the state of Montana to engage in the practice of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, optometry, or a nursing specialty described in 37-8-202 or licensed as a physician assistant pursuant to 37-20-203.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 104, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6304; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 359, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 396, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 124, Ch. 467, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 519, L. 2005.

**50-16-202. Committees to have access to information.** It is in the interest of public health and patient medical care that health care facility committees have access to the records and other health care information relating to the condition and treatment of patients in the health care facility to study and evaluate for the purpose of evaluating matters relating to the care and treatment of patients for research purposes and for the purpose of reducing morbidity or mortality and obtaining statistics and information relating to the prevention and treatment of diseases, illnesses, and injuries. To carry out these purposes, any health care facility and its agents and employees may provide medical records or other health care information relating to the condition and treatment of any patient in the health care facility to any utilization review, peer review, medical ethics review, quality assurance, or quality improvement committee of the health care facility.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6301(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 359, L. 2001.

**50-16-203. Committee health care information and proceedings confidential and privileged.** All records and health care information referred to in 50-16-202 are confidential and privileged to the committee and the members of the committee as though the health care facility patients were the patients of the members of the committee. All proceedings, records, and reports of committees are confidential and privileged.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6301(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 359, L. 2001.

#### **Cross-References**

Doctor-patient privilege, 26-1-805.

Privileges, Rules 501 through 505, M.R.Ev. (see Title 26, ch. 10).

**50-16-204. Restrictions on use or publication of information.** A utilization review, peer review, medical ethics review, quality assurance, or quality improvement committee of a health care facility may use or publish health care information only for the purpose of evaluating matters of medical care, therapy, and treatment for research and statistical purposes. Neither a committee nor the members, agents, or employees of a committee shall disclose the name or identity of any patient whose records have been studied in any report or publication of findings and conclusions of a committee, but a committee and its members, agents, or employees shall protect the identity of any patient whose condition or treatment has been studied and may not disclose or reveal the name of any health care facility patient.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 104, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6302; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 359, L. 2001.

**50-16-205. Data confidential -- inadmissible in judicial proceedings.** All data is confidential and is not discoverable or admissible in evidence in any judicial proceeding. However, this section does not affect the discoverability or admissibility in evidence of health care information that is not data as defined in 50-16-201.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 104, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6303; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 359, L. 2001.

#### **Cross-References**

Montana Rules of Evidence, Title 26, ch. 10.

### **Part 3 Confidentiality of Health Care Information (Repealed)**

**50-16-301. Repealed.** Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

**50-16-302. Repealed.** Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

**50-16-303. Repealed.** Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.  
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

**50-16-304. Repealed.** Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.  
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

**50-16-305. Repealed.** Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.  
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

**50-16-306 through 50-16-310 reserved.**

**50-16-311. Repealed.** Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.  
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 578, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 725, L. 1985.

**50-16-312. Repealed.** Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.  
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

**50-16-313. Repealed.** Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.  
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

**50-16-314. Repealed.** Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.  
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

#### **Part 4 Health Information Center (Repealed)**

**50-16-401. Repealed.** Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 1987.  
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 628, L. 1983.

#### **Part Cross-References**

Right of privacy guaranteed, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

#### **Part 5 Uniform Health Care Information**

**50-16-501. Short title.** This part may be cited as the "Uniform Health Care Information Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

**50-16-502. Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) health care information is personal and sensitive information that if improperly used or released may do significant harm to a patient's interests in privacy and health care or other interests;

(2) patients need access to their own health care information as a matter of fairness, to enable them to make informed decisions about their health care and to correct inaccurate or incomplete information about themselves;

(3) in order to retain the full trust and confidence of patients, health care providers have an interest in ensuring that health care information is not improperly disclosed and in having clear and certain rules for the disclosure of health care information;

(4) persons other than health care providers obtain, use, and disclose health record information in many different contexts and for many different purposes. It is the public policy of this state that a patient's interest in the proper use and disclosure of the patient's health care information survives even when the information is held by persons other than health care providers.

(5) the movement of patients and their health care information across state lines, access to and exchange of health care information from automated data banks, and the emergence of multistate health care providers creates a compelling need for uniform law, rules, and procedures governing the use and disclosure of health care information.

(6) the enactment of federal health care privacy legislation and the adoption of rules pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq., require health care providers subject to that legislation to provide significant

privacy protection for health care information and the provisions of this part are no longer necessary for those health care providers; and

(7) because the provisions of HIPAA do not apply to some health care providers, it is important that these health care providers continue to adhere to this part.

**History:** En. Sec. 2, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 396, L. 2003.

**50-16-503. Uniformity of application and construction.** This part must be applied and construed to effectuate their general purpose to make uniform the laws with respect to the treatment of health care information among states enacting them.

**History:** En. Sec. 3, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

**50-16-504. Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Audit" means an assessment, evaluation, determination, or investigation of a health care provider by a person not employed by or affiliated with the provider, to determine compliance with:

- (a) statutory, regulatory, fiscal, medical, or scientific standards;
- (b) a private or public program of payments to a health care provider; or
- (c) requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification.

(2) "Directory information" means information disclosing the presence and the general health condition of a patient who is an inpatient in a health care facility or who is receiving emergency health care in a health care facility.

(3) "General health condition" means the patient's health status described in terms of critical, poor, fair, good, excellent, or terms denoting similar conditions.

(4) "Health care" means any care, service, or procedure provided by a health care provider, including medical or psychological diagnosis, treatment, evaluation, advice, or other services that affect the structure or any function of the human body.

(5) "Health care facility" means a hospital, clinic, nursing home, laboratory, office, or similar place where a health care provider provides health care to patients.

(6) "Health care information" means any information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium, that identifies or can readily be associated with the identity of a patient and relates to the patient's health care. The term includes any record of disclosures of health care information.

(7) "Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

(8) "Institutional review board" means a board, committee, or other group formally designated by an institution or authorized under federal or state law to review, approve the initiation of, or conduct periodic review of research programs to assure the protection of the rights and welfare of human research subjects.

(9) "Maintain", as related to health care information, means to hold, possess, preserve, retain, store, or control that information.

(10) "Patient" means an individual who receives or has received health care. The term includes a deceased individual who has received health care.

(11) "Peer review" means an evaluation of health care services by a committee of a state or local professional organization of health care providers or a committee of medical staff of a licensed health care facility. The committee must be:

- (a) authorized by law to evaluate health care services; and
- (b) governed by written bylaws approved by the governing board of the health care facility or an organization of health care providers.

(12) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision or agency, or other legal or commercial entity.

(13) "Reasonable fee" means the charge, as provided for in 50-16-540, for duplicating, searching for, or handling recorded health care information.

**History:** En. Sec. 4, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 300, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 396, L. 2003.

## **Cross-References**

Government health care information -- definition of health care information, 50-16-602.

**50-16-505. Limit on applicability.** The provisions of this part apply only to a health care provider that is not subject to the privacy provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq., and administrative rules adopted in connection with HIPAA.

**History:** En. Sec. 8, Ch. 396, L. 2003.

**50-16-506 through 50-16-510 reserved.**

**50-16-511. Duty to adopt security safeguards.** A health care provider shall effect reasonable safeguards for the security of all health care information it maintains.

**History:** En. Sec. 21, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

**50-16-512. Content and dissemination of notice.** (1) A health care provider who provides health care at a health care facility that the provider operates and who maintains a record of a patient's health care information shall create a notice of information practices, in substantially the following form:

#### NOTICE

"We keep a record of the health care services we provide for you. You may ask us to see and copy that record. You may also ask us to correct that record. We will not disclose your record to others unless you direct us to do so or unless the law authorizes or compels us to do so. You may see your record or get more information about it at ....."

(2) The health care provider shall post a copy of the notice of information practices in a conspicuous place in the health care facility and upon request provide patients or prospective patients with a copy of the notice.

**History:** En. Sec. 18, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

**50-16-513. Retention of record.** A health care provider shall maintain a record of existing health care information for at least 1 year following receipt of an authorization to disclose that health care information under 50-16-526 and during the pendency of a request for examination and copying under 50-16-541 or a request for correction or amendment under 50-16-543.

**History:** En. Sec. 22, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

#### Cross-References

Records and reports required of health care facilities -- confidentiality, 50-5-106.

Maintenance and confidentiality of records concerning persons with developmental disabilities, 53-20-161.

**50-16-514 through 50-16-520 reserved.**

**50-16-521. Health care representatives.** (1) A person authorized to consent to health care for another may exercise the rights of that person under this part to the extent necessary to effectuate the terms or purposes of the grant of authority. If the patient is a minor and is authorized under 41-1-402 to consent to health care without parental consent, only the minor may exclusively exercise the rights of a patient under this part as to information pertaining to health care to which the minor lawfully consented.

(2) A person authorized to act for a patient shall act in good faith to represent the best interests of the patient.

**History:** En. Sec. 19, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

**50-16-522. Representative of deceased patient.** A personal representative of a deceased patient may exercise all of the deceased patient's rights under this part. If there is no personal representative or upon discharge of the personal representative, a deceased patient's rights under this part may be exercised by the surviving spouse, a parent, an adult child, an adult sibling, or any other person who is authorized by law to act for him.

**History:** En. Sec. 20, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 657, L. 1989.

**50-16-523 and 50-16-524 reserved.**

**50-16-525. Disclosure by health care provider.** (1) Except as authorized in 50-16-529, 50-16-530, and 50-19-402 or as otherwise specifically provided by law or the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, a health care provider, an individual who assists a health care provider in the delivery of health care, or an agent or employee of a health care provider may not disclose health care information about a patient to any other person without the patient's written authorization. A disclosure made under a patient's written authorization must conform to the authorization.

(2) A health care provider shall maintain, in conjunction with a patient's recorded health care information, a record of each person who has received or examined, in whole or in part, the recorded health care information during the preceding 3 years, except for a person who has examined the recorded health care information under 50-16-529(1) or (2). The record of disclosure must include the name, address, and institutional affiliation, if any, of each person receiving or examining the recorded health care information, the date of the receipt or examination, and to the extent practicable a description of the information disclosed.

**History:** En. Sec. 5, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 657, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 519, L. 1997.

### **Cross-References**

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.  
Physical and mental examination of persons, Rule 35, M.R.Civ.P. (see Title 25, ch. 20).  
Doctor-patient privilege, 26-1-805.  
Privileges, Rules 501 through 505, M.R.Ev. (see Title 26, ch. 10).  
Gunshot or stab wounds -- reporting by health care practitioners, 37-2-302.  
Release of information by physician concerning minor, 41-1-403.  
Records and reports required of health care facilities -- confidentiality, 50-5-106.  
Confidentiality under Tumor Registry Act, 50-15-704.  
Unauthorized divulgence of serological test information, 50-19-108.  
Maintenance and confidentiality of records concerning persons with developmental disabilities, 53-20-161.  
Confidentiality of records concerning mental illness, 53-21-166.  
Records of chemically dependent persons, intoxicated persons, and family members, 53-24-306.

**50-16-526. Patient authorization to health care provider for disclosure.** (1) A patient may authorize a health care provider to disclose the patient's health care information. A health care provider shall honor an authorization and, if requested, provide a copy of the recorded health care information unless the health care provider denies the patient access to health care information under 50-16-542.

(2) A health care provider may charge a reasonable fee, not to exceed the fee provided for in 50-16-540, and is not required to honor an authorization until the fee is paid.

(3) To be valid, a disclosure authorization to a health care provider must:

- (a) be in writing, dated, and signed by the patient;
- (b) identify the nature of the information to be disclosed; and
- (c) identify the person to whom the information is to be disclosed.

(4) Except as provided by this part, the signing of an authorization by a patient is not a waiver of any rights a patient has under other statutes, the Montana Rules of Evidence, or common law.

**History:** En. Sec. 6, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 300, L. 1999.

### **Cross-References**

Privileges, Rules 501 through 505, M.R.Ev. (see Title 26, ch. 10).

**50-16-527. Patient authorization -- retention -- effective period -- exception -- communication without prior notice for workers' compensation purposes.** (1) A health care provider shall retain each authorization or revocation in conjunction with any health care information from which disclosures are made.

(2) Except for authorizations to provide information to third-party health care payors, an authorization may not permit the release of health care information relating to health care that the patient receives more than 6 months after the authorization was signed.

(3) Health care information disclosed under an authorization is otherwise subject to this part. An authorization becomes invalid after the expiration date contained in the authorization, which may not exceed 30 months. If the authorization does not contain an expiration date, it expires 6 months after it is signed.

(4) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (3), a signed claim for workers' compensation or occupational disease benefits authorizes disclosure to the workers' compensation insurer, as defined in 39-71-116, or to the agent of a workers' compensation insurer by the health care provider. The disclosure authorized by this subsection authorizes the physician or other health care provider to disclose or release only information relevant to the claimant's condition. Health care information relevant to the claimant's condition may include past history of the complaints of or the treatment of a condition that is similar to that presented in the claim, conditions for which benefits are subsequently claimed, other conditions related to the same body part, or conditions that may affect recovery. A release of information related to workers' compensation must be consistent with the provisions of this subsection. Authorization under this section is effective only as long as the claimant is claiming benefits. This subsection may not be construed to restrict the scope of discovery or disclosure of health care information as allowed under the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, by the workers' compensation court, or as otherwise provided by law.

(5) A signed claim for workers' compensation or occupational disease benefits or a signed release authorizes a workers' compensation insurer, as defined in 39-71-116, or the agent of the workers' compensation insurer to communicate with a physician or other health care provider about relevant health care information, as authorized in subsection (4), by telephone, letter, electronic communication, in person, or by other means, about a claim and to receive from the physician or health care provider the information authorized in subsection (4) without prior notice to the injured employee, to the employee's authorized representative or agent, or in the case of death, to the employee's personal representative or any person with a right or claim to compensation for the injury or death.

**History:** En. Sec. 7, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 333, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 480, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 464, L. 2003.

**50-16-528. Patient's revocation of authorization for disclosure.** A patient may revoke a disclosure authorization to a health care provider at any time unless disclosure is required to effectuate payments for health care that has been provided or other substantial action has been taken in reliance on the authorization. A patient may not maintain an action against the health care provider for disclosures made in good faith reliance on an authorization if the health care provider had no notice of the revocation of the authorization.

**History:** En. Sec. 8, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

**50-16-529. Disclosure without patient's authorization based on need to know.** A health care provider may disclose health care information about a patient without the patient's authorization, to the extent a recipient needs to know the information, if the disclosure is:

- (1) to a person who is providing health care to the patient;
- (2) to any other person who requires health care information for health care education; to provide planning, quality assurance, peer review, or administrative, legal, financial, or actuarial services to the health care provider; for assisting the health care provider in the delivery of health care; or to a third-party health care payor who requires health care information and if the health care provider reasonably believes that the person will:
  - (a) not use or disclose the health care information for any other purpose; and
  - (b) take appropriate steps to protect the health care information;
- (3) to any other health care provider who has previously provided health care to the patient, to the extent necessary to provide health care to the patient, unless the patient has instructed the health care provider not to make the disclosure;
- (4) to immediate family members of the patient or any other individual with whom the patient is known to have a close personal relationship, if made in accordance with the laws of the state and good medical or other professional practice, unless the patient has instructed the health care provider not to make the disclosure;
- (5) to a health care provider who is the successor in interest to the health care provider maintaining the health care information;
- (6) for use in a research project that an institutional review board has determined:

(a) is of sufficient importance to outweigh the intrusion into the privacy of the patient that would result from the disclosure;

(b) is impracticable without the use or disclosure of the health care information in individually identifiable form;

(c) contains reasonable safeguards to protect the information from improper disclosure;

(d) contains reasonable safeguards to protect against directly or indirectly identifying any patient in any report of the research project; and

(e) contains procedures to remove or destroy at the earliest opportunity, consistent with the purposes of the project, information that would enable the patient to be identified, unless an institutional review board authorizes retention of identifying information for purposes of another research project;

(7) to a person who obtains information for purposes of an audit, if that person agrees in writing to:

(a) remove or destroy, at the earliest opportunity consistent with the purpose of the audit, information that would enable the patient to be identified; and

(b) not disclose the information further, except to accomplish the audit or to report unlawful or improper conduct involving fraud in payment for health care by a health care provider or patient or other unlawful conduct by a health care provider;

(8) to an official of a penal or other custodial institution in which the patient is detained; and

(9) to any contact, as defined in 50-16-1003, if the health care provider reasonably believes that disclosure will avoid or minimize an imminent danger to the health or safety of the contact or any other individual.

**History:** En. Sec. 9, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 657, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 544, L. 1991.

### **Cross-References**

Duty of mental health professionals to warn of violent patients, 27-1-1102.

Nonliability for peer review, 37-2-201.

Pharmacists not liable for peer review, 37-7-1101.

Release of information by physician concerning minor, 41-1-403.

Maintenance and confidentiality of records concerning persons with developmental disabilities, 53-20-161.

Confidentiality of records concerning mental illness, 53-21-166.

**50-16-530. Disclosure without patient's authorization.** A health care provider may disclose health care information about a patient without the patient's authorization if the disclosure is:

(1) directory information, unless the patient has instructed the health care provider not to make the disclosure;

(2) to federal, state, or local public health authorities, to the extent the health care provider is required by law to report health care information or when needed to protect the public health;

(3) to federal, state, or local law enforcement authorities to the extent required by law;

(4) to a law enforcement officer about the general physical condition of a patient being treated in a health care facility if the patient was injured on a public roadway or was injured by the possible criminal act of another;

(5) in response to a request of the office of victims services for information under 53-9-104(2)(b);

(6) pursuant to compulsory process in accordance with 50-16-535 and 50-16-536;

(7) pursuant to 50-16-712; or

(8) to the state medical examiner or a county coroner for use in determining cause of death. The information is required to be held confidential as provided by law.

**History:** En. Sec. 10, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 396, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

**50-16-531. Immunity of health care providers pursuant to written authorization -- form required.** A health care provider who discloses health care information within the possession of the provider, including health care information from another provider, is immune from any civil cause of action by the patient or the patient's heirs or successors in interest that is based upon

delivery to the patient or the patient's designee of health care information concerning the patient that is contained in the health care provider's patient file if the information is disclosed in accordance with a written authorization using the following language:

"All health care information in your possession, whether generated by you or by any other source, may be released to me or to .....(named person) for .....(purpose of the disclosure). This release is subject to revocation at any time. The revocation is effective from the time it is communicated to the health care provider. If not revoked, the release terminates in accordance with 50-16-527.

c1

.....  
(Signature of patient)"

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 469, L. 1993.

**50-16-532 through 50-16-534 reserved.**

**50-16-535. When health care information available by compulsory process. (1)**

Health care information may not be disclosed by a health care provider pursuant to compulsory legal process or discovery in any judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding unless:

(a) the patient has authorized in writing the release of the health care information in response to compulsory process or a discovery request;

(b) the patient has waived the right to claim confidentiality for the health care information sought;

(c) the patient is a party to the proceeding and has placed the patient's physical or mental condition in issue;

(d) the patient's physical or mental condition is relevant to the execution or witnessing of a will or other document;

(e) the physical or mental condition of a deceased patient is placed in issue by any person claiming or defending through or as a beneficiary of the patient;

(f) a patient's health care information is to be used in the patient's commitment proceeding;

(g) the health care information is for use in any law enforcement proceeding or investigation in which a health care provider is the subject or a party, except that health care information so obtained may not be used in any proceeding against the patient unless the matter relates to payment for the patient's health care or unless authorized under subsection (1)(j);

(h) the health care information is relevant to a proceeding brought under 50-16-551 through 50-16-553;

(i) the health care information is relevant to a proceeding brought under Title 41, chapter 3;

(j) a court has determined that particular health care information is subject to compulsory legal process or discovery because the party seeking the information has demonstrated that there is a compelling state interest that outweighs the patient's privacy interest; or

(k) the health care information is requested pursuant to an investigative subpoena issued under 46-4-301 or a similar federal law.

(2) This part does not authorize the disclosure of health care information by compulsory legal process or discovery in any judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding in which disclosure is otherwise prohibited by law.

**History:** En. Sec. 11, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 657, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 396, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 504, L. 2003.

**Cross-References**

Government health care information -- legal proceedings, 50-16-605.

**50-16-536. Method of compulsory process.** (1) Unless the court for good cause shown determines that the notification should be waived or modified, if health care information is sought under 50-16-535(1)(b), (1)(d), or (1)(e) or in a civil proceeding or investigation under 50-16-535(1)(j), the person seeking discovery or compulsory process shall mail a notice by first-class mail to the patient or the patient's attorney of record of the compulsory process or discovery request at least 10 days before presenting the certificate required under subsection (2) of this section to the health care provider.

(2) Service of compulsory process or discovery requests upon a health care provider must be accompanied by a written certification, signed by the person seeking to obtain health care information or by the person's authorized representative, identifying at least one subsection of 50-16-535 under which compulsory process or discovery is being sought. The certification must also state, in the case of information sought under 50-16-535(1)(b), (1)(d), or (1)(e) or in a civil proceeding under 50-16-535(1)(j), that the requirements of subsection (1) of this section for notice have been met. A person may sign the certification only if the person reasonably believes that the subsection of 50-16-535 identified in the certification provides an appropriate basis for the use of discovery or compulsory process. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the health care provider shall maintain a copy of the process and the written certification as a permanent part of the patient's health care information.

(3) In response to service of compulsory process or discovery requests, when authorized by law, a health care provider may deny access to the requested health care information. Additionally, a health care provider may deny access to the requested health care information under 50-16-542(1). If access to requested health care information is denied by the health care provider under 50-16-542(1), the health care provider shall submit to the court by affidavit or other reasonable means an explanation of why the health care provider believes the information should be protected from disclosure.

(4) When access to health care information is denied under 50-16-542(1), the court may order disclosure of health care information, with or without restrictions as to its use, as the court considers necessary. In deciding whether to order disclosure, the court shall consider the explanation submitted by the health care provider, the reasons for denying access to health care information set forth in 50-16-542(1), and any arguments presented by interested parties.

(5) A health care provider required to disclose health care information pursuant to compulsory process may charge a reasonable fee, not to exceed the fee provided for in 50-16-540, and may deny examination or copying of the information until the fee is paid.

(6) Production of health care information under 50-16-535 and this section does not in itself constitute a waiver of any privilege, objection, or defense existing under other law or rule of evidence or procedure.

**History:** En. Sec. 12, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 657, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 300, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 504, L. 2003.

#### **50-16-537 through 50-16-539 reserved.**

**50-16-540. Reasonable fees allowed.** A reasonable fee for providing health care information may not exceed 50 cents for each page for a paper copy or photocopy. A reasonable fee may include an administrative fee that may not exceed \$15 for searching and handling recorded health care information.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 300, L. 1999.

#### **50-16-541. Requirements and procedures for patient's examination and copying.**

(1) Upon receipt of a written request from a patient to examine or copy all or part of the patient's recorded health care information, a health care provider, as promptly as required under the circumstances but no later than 10 days after receiving the request, shall:

(a) make the information available to the patient for examination, without charge, during regular business hours or provide a copy, if requested, to the patient;

(b) inform the patient if the information does not exist or cannot be found;

(c) if the health care provider does not maintain a record of the information, inform the patient and provide the name and address, if known, of the health care provider who maintains the record;

(d) if the information is in use or unusual circumstances have delayed handling the request, inform the patient and specify in writing the reasons for the delay and the earliest date, not later than 21 days after receiving the request, when the information will be available for examination or copying or when the request will be otherwise disposed of; or

(e) deny the request in whole or in part under 50-16-542 and inform the patient.

(2) Upon request, the health care provider shall provide an explanation of any code or abbreviation used in the health care information. If a record of the particular health care information requested is not maintained by the health care provider in the requested form, the health care provider is not required to create a new record or reformulate an existing record to

make the information available in the requested form. The health care provider may charge a reasonable fee for each request, not to exceed the fee provided for in 50-16-540, for providing the health care information and is not required to provide copies until the fee is paid.

**History:** En. Sec. 13, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 300, L. 1999.

**50-16-542. Denial of examination and copying.** (1) A health care provider may deny access to health care information by a patient if the health care provider reasonably concludes that:

(a) knowledge of the health care information would be injurious to the health of the patient;

(b) knowledge of the health care information could reasonably be expected to lead to the patient's identification of an individual who provided the information in confidence and under circumstances in which confidentiality was appropriate;

(c) knowledge of the health care information could reasonably be expected to cause danger to the life or safety of any individual;

(d) the health care information is data, as defined in 50-16-201, that is compiled and used solely for utilization review, peer review, medical ethics review, quality assurance, or quality improvement;

(e) the health care information might contain information protected from disclosure pursuant to 50-15-121 and 50-15-122;

(f) the health care provider obtained the information from a person other than the patient; or

(g) access to the health care information is otherwise prohibited by law.

(2) Except as provided in 50-16-521, a health care provider may deny access to health care information by a patient who is a minor if:

(a) the patient is committed to a mental health facility; or

(b) the patient's parents or guardian has not authorized the health care provider to disclose the patient's health care information.

(3) If a health care provider denies a request for examination and copying under this section, the provider, to the extent possible, shall segregate health care information for which access has been denied under subsection (1) from information for which access cannot be denied and permit the patient to examine or copy the information subject to disclosure.

(4) If a health care provider denies a patient's request for examination and copying, in whole or in part, under subsection (1)(a) or (1)(c), the provider shall permit examination and copying of the record by the patient's spouse, adult child, or parent or guardian or by another health care provider who is providing health care services to the patient for the same condition as the health care provider denying the request. The health care provider denying the request shall inform the patient of the patient's right to select another health care provider under this subsection.

**History:** En. Sec. 14, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 657, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 515, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 359, L. 2001.

**50-16-543. Request for correction or amendment.** (1) For purposes of accuracy or completeness, a patient may request in writing that a health care provider correct or amend its record of the patient's health care information to which he has access under 50-16-541.

(2) As promptly as required under the circumstances but no later than 10 days after receiving a request from a patient to correct or amend its record of the patient's health care information, the health care provider shall:

(a) make the requested correction or amendment and inform the patient of the action and of the patient's right to have the correction or amendment sent to previous recipients of the health care information in question;

(b) inform the patient if the record no longer exists or cannot be found;

(c) if the health care provider does not maintain the record, inform the patient and provide him with the name and address, if known, of the person who maintains the record;

(d) if the record is in use or unusual circumstances have delayed the handling of the correction or amendment request, inform the patient and specify in writing the earliest date, not later than 21 days after receiving the request, when the correction or amendment will be made or when the request will otherwise be disposed of; or

(e) inform the patient in writing of the provider's refusal to correct or amend the record as requested, the reason for the refusal, and the patient's right to add a statement of disagreement and to have that statement sent to previous recipients of the disputed health care information.

**History:** En. Sec. 15, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

**50-16-544. Procedure for adding correction, amendment, or statement of disagreement.** (1) In making a correction or amendment, the health care provider shall:

(a) add the amending information as a part of the health record; and

(b) mark the challenged entries as corrected or amended entries and indicate the place in the record where the corrected or amended information is located, in a manner practicable under the circumstances.

(2) If the health care provider maintaining the record of the patient's health care information refuses to make the patient's proposed correction or amendment, the provider shall:

(a) permit the patient to file as a part of the record of his health care information a concise statement of the correction or amendment requested and the reasons therefor; and

(b) mark the challenged entry to indicate that the patient claims the entry is inaccurate or incomplete and indicate the place in the record where the statement of disagreement is located, in a manner practicable under the circumstances.

**History:** En. Sec. 16, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

**50-16-545. Dissemination of corrected or amended information or statement of disagreement.** (1) A health care provider, upon request of a patient, shall take reasonable steps to provide copies of corrected or amended information or of a statement of disagreement to all persons designated by the patient and identified in the health care information as having examined or received copies of the information sought to be corrected or amended.

(2) A health care provider may charge the patient a reasonable fee, not exceeding the fee provided for in 50-16-540, for distributing corrected or amended information or the statement of disagreement, unless the provider's error necessitated the correction or amendment.

**History:** En. Sec. 17, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 300, L. 1999.

**50-16-546 through 50-16-550 reserved.**

**50-16-551. Criminal penalty.** (1) A person who by means of bribery, theft, or misrepresentation of identity, purpose of use, or entitlement to the information examines or obtains, in violation of this part, health care information maintained by a health care provider is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 1 year, or both.

(2) A person who, knowing that a certification under 50-16-536(2) or a disclosure authorization under 50-16-526 and 50-16-527 is false, purposely presents the certification or disclosure authorization to a health care provider is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 1 year, or both.

**History:** En. Sec. 23, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

## **Cross-References**

Government health care information -- penalty, 50-16-611.

Unauthorized divulgence of serological test information, 50-19-108.

**50-16-552. Civil enforcement.** The attorney general or appropriate county attorney may maintain a civil action to enforce this part. The court may order any relief authorized by 50-16-553.

**History:** En. Sec. 24, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

**50-16-553. Civil remedies.** (1) A person aggrieved by a violation of this part may maintain an action for relief as provided in this section.

(2) The court may order the health care provider or other person to comply with this part and may order any other appropriate relief.

(3) A health care provider who relies in good faith upon a certification pursuant to 50-16-536(2) is not liable for disclosures made in reliance on that certification.

(4) No disciplinary or punitive action may be taken against a health care provider or his employee or agent who brings evidence of a violation of this part to the attention of the patient or an appropriate authority.

(5) In an action by a patient alleging that health care information was improperly withheld under 50-16-541 and 50-16-542, the burden of proof is on the health care provider to establish that the information was properly withheld.

(6) If the court determines that there is a violation of this part, the aggrieved person is entitled to recover damages for pecuniary losses sustained as a result of the violation and, in addition, if the violation results from willful or grossly negligent conduct, the aggrieved person may recover not in excess of \$5,000, exclusive of any pecuniary loss.

(7) If a plaintiff prevails, the court may assess reasonable attorney fees and all other expenses reasonably incurred in the litigation.

(8) An action under this part is barred unless the action is commenced within 3 years after the cause of action accrues.

**History:** En. Sec. 25, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

### **Part Cross-References**

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

## **Part 6 Government Health Care Information**

**50-16-601. Short title.** This part may be cited as the "Government Health Care Information Act".

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 481, L. 1989.

**50-16-602. Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) (a) "Health care information" means information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium, that identifies or can readily be associated with the identity of an individual, including one who is deceased, and that relates to that individual's health care or status. The term includes any record of disclosures of health care information and any information about an individual received pursuant to state law or rules relating to communicable disease.

(b) The term does not include vital statistics information gathered under Title 50, chapter 15.

(3) "Local board" means a county, city, city-county, or district board of health provided for in Title 50, chapter 2, part 1.

(4) "Local health officer" means a county, city, city-county, or district health officer appointed by a local board.

**History:** En. Sec. 2, Ch. 481, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 286, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

### **Cross-References**

Uniform health care information -- definition of health care information, 50-16-504.

**50-16-603. Confidentiality of health care information.** Health care information in the possession of the department, a local board, a local health officer, or the entity's authorized representatives may not be released except:

(1) for statistical purposes, if no identification of individuals can be made from the information released;

(2) when the health care information pertains to a person who has given written consent to the release and has specified the type of information to be released and the person or entity to whom it may be released;

(3) to medical personnel in a medical emergency as necessary to protect the health, life, or well-being of the named person;

(4) as allowed by Title 50, chapters 17 and 18;

(5) to another state or local public health agency, including those in other states, whenever necessary to continue health services to the named person or to undertake public health efforts to

prevent or interrupt the transmission of a communicable disease or to alleviate and prevent injury caused by the release of biological, chemical, or radiological agents capable of causing imminent disability, death, or infection;

(6) in the case of a minor, as required by 41-3-201 or pursuant to an investigation under 41-3-202 or if the health care information is to be presented as evidence in a court proceeding involving child abuse pursuant to Title 41, chapter 3. Documents containing the information must be sealed by the court upon conclusion of the proceedings.

(7) to medical personnel, the department, a local health officer or board, or a district court when necessary to implement or enforce state statutes or state or local health rules concerning the prevention or control of diseases designated as reportable pursuant to 50-1-202, if the release does not conflict with any other provision contained in this part.

**History:** En. Sec. 3, Ch. 481, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 391, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 504, L. 2003.

### **Cross-References**

Uniform health care information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

**50-16-604. Secondary release of health care information.** Information released pursuant to 50-16-603 may not be released by the person or entity it is released to unless the release conforms to the requirements of 50-16-603.

**History:** En. Sec. 4, Ch. 481, L. 1989.

**50-16-605. Judicial, legislative, and administrative proceedings -- testimony.** (1) An officer or employee of the department may not be examined in a judicial, legislative, administrative, or other proceeding about the existence or content of records containing individually identifiable health care information, including the results of investigations, unless all individuals whose names appear in the records give written consent to the release of information identifying them.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the health care information is to be released pursuant to 50-16-603(6) and (7).

**History:** En. Sec. 5, Ch. 481, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 504, L. 2003.

### **Cross-References**

Uniform health care information -- when available by compulsory process, 50-16-535.

**50-16-606. Correlation with Uniform Health Care Information Act.** Health care information in the possession of a local board, local health officer, or the department because a health care provider employed by any of these entities provided health care to a patient, either individually or at a public health center or other publicly owned health care facility, is subject to the Uniform Health Care Information Act and not subject to this part.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 432, L. 1991.

### **Cross-References**

Uniform Health Care Information Act, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

**50-16-607 through 50-16-610 reserved.**

**50-16-611. Penalty.** A person who knowingly violates the provisions of this part is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not less than \$500 or more than \$10,000, be imprisoned in the county jail not less than 3 months or more than 1 year, or both.

**History:** En. Sec. 6, Ch. 481, L. 1989.

### **Cross-References**

Uniform health care information -- criminal penalty, 50-16-551.

### **Part Cross-References**

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Duty to report cases of communicable disease, 37-2-301.

Duty to report cases of sexually transmitted diseases, 50-18-106.

## **Part 7**

### **Report of Exposure to Infectious Disease**

**50-16-701. Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Airborne infectious disease" means an infectious disease transmitted from person to person by an aerosol, including but not limited to infectious tuberculosis.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Designated officer" means the emergency services organization's representative and the alternate whose names are on record with the department as the persons responsible for notifying an emergency services provider of exposure.

(4) "Emergency services organization" means a public or private organization that provides emergency services to the public.

(5) "Emergency services provider" means a person employed by or acting as a volunteer with an emergency services organization, including but not limited to a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, paramedic, corrections officer, or ambulance service attendant.

(6) "Exposure" means the subjecting of a person to a risk of transmission of an infectious disease through the commingling of the blood or bodily fluids of the person and a patient or in another manner as defined by department rule.

(7) "Health care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101 and includes a public health center as defined in 7-34-2102.

(8) "Infectious disease" means human immunodeficiency virus infection, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, hepatitis D, communicable pulmonary tuberculosis, meningococcal meningitis, and any other disease capable of being transmitted through an exposure that has been designated by department rule.

(9) "Infectious disease control officer" means the person designated by the health care facility as the person who is responsible for notifying the emergency services provider's designated officer and the department of an infectious disease as provided for in this part and by rule.

(10) "Patient" means an individual who is sick, injured, wounded, or otherwise incapacitated or helpless.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 390, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 476, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 287, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 93, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 1999.

**50-16-702. Notification of exposure to infectious disease -- report of exposure to disease.** (1) (a) If an emergency services provider acting in an official capacity attends a patient prior to or during transport or assists in transporting a patient to a health care facility and the emergency services provider has had an exposure, the emergency services provider may request the designated officer to submit the form required by department rule to the health care facility on the emergency services provider's behalf. The form must be provided for in rules adopted by the department and must include the emergency services provider's name and other information required by the department, including a description of the exposure. The designated officer shall submit the completed form to the health care facility receiving the patient as soon as possible after the request for submission by the emergency services provider. Submission of the form to the health care facility is an indication that the emergency services provider was exposed and a verification that the designated officer and the emergency services provider believe that the emergency services provider was exposed.

(b) If the exposure described on the form occurred in a manner that may allow infection by HIV, as defined in 50-16-1003, by a mode of transmission recognized by the centers for disease control and prevention, then submission of the form to the health care facility constitutes a request to the patient's physician to seek consent for performance of an HIV-related test pursuant to 50-16-1007(10).

(c) Upon receipt of the report of exposure from a designated officer, the health care facility shall notify the designated officer in writing whether or not a determination has been made that the patient has or does not have an infectious disease. If a determination has been made and the patient has been found:

(i) to have an infectious disease, the information required by 50-16-703 must be provided by the health care facility;

(ii) to not have an infectious disease, the date on which the patient was transported to the health care facility must be provided by the health care facility.

(2) If a health care facility receiving a patient determines that the patient has an airborne infectious disease, the health care facility shall, within 48 hours after the determination was made, notify the designated officer and the department of that fact. The notice to the department must include the name of the emergency services organization that transported the patient to the health care facility. The department shall, within 24 hours after receiving the notice, notify the designated officer of the emergency services provider who transported the patient.

(3) A designated officer who receives the notification from a health care facility required by 50-16-703(2) or by subsection (1)(c) of this section shall immediately provide the information contained in the notification to the emergency services provider for whom the report of exposure was filed or who was exposed to a patient with an airborne infectious disease.

**History:** En. Sec. 2, Ch. 390, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 544, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 476, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 146, L. 1999.

**50-16-703. Notification of precautions after exposure to infectious disease.** (1) After a patient is transported to a health care facility and if a physician determines that the transported patient has an infectious disease, the physician shall inform the infectious disease control officer of the health care facility of the determination within 24 hours after the determination is made.

(2) If it is determined that the infectious disease is airborne or a report of exposure was filed concerning the patient under 50-16-702, the health care facility shall provide the notification required by subsection (3) orally within 48 hours after the time of diagnosis and in writing within 72 hours after diagnosis to the designated officer of each emergency services organization known to the health care facility to have provided emergency services to the patient prior to or during transportation to the health care facility.

(3) The notification must state the disease to which the emergency services provider was exposed, the appropriate medical precautions and treatment that the exposed person needs to take, the date on which the patient was transported to the health care facility, and the time that the patient arrived at the facility.

**History:** En. Sec. 3, Ch. 390, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 476, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 146, L. 1999.

**50-16-704. Confidentiality -- penalty for violation -- immunity from liability.** (1) The name of the person diagnosed as having an infectious disease may not be released to anyone, including the emergency services provider who was exposed, nor may the name of the emergency services provider who was exposed be released to anyone other than the emergency services provider, except as required by this part, by department rule concerning reporting of communicable disease, or as allowed by Title 50, chapter 16, part 5.

(2) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not less than \$500 or more than \$10,000, be imprisoned in the county jail not less than 3 months or more than 1 year, or both.

(3) A health care facility, a representative of a health care facility, a physician, or the designated officer of an emergency services provider's organization may not be held jointly or severally liable for providing the notification required by 50-16-703 when the notification is made in good faith or for failing to provide the notification if good faith attempts to contact an exposed person of exposure are unsuccessful.

**History:** En. Sec. 5, Ch. 390, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 476, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 146, L. 1999.

## **Cross-References**

Physician's immunity from liability, 37-2-312.

**50-16-705. Rulemaking authority.** The department shall adopt rules to:

- (1) define what constitutes an exposure to an infectious disease;
- (2) specify the infectious diseases subject to this part;
- (3) specify the information about an exposure that must be included in a report of exposure;
- (4) specify recommended medical precautions and treatment for each infectious disease subject to this part; and
- (5) specify recordkeeping and reporting requirements necessary to ensure compliance with the notification requirements of this part.

## Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

**50-16-706 through 50-16-710 reserved.**

**50-16-711. Health care facility and emergency services organization responsibilities for tracking exposure to infectious disease.** (1) The health care facility and the emergency services organization shall develop internal procedures for implementing the provisions of this part and department rules.

(2) The health care facility must have available at all times a person to receive the form provided for in 50-16-702 containing a report of exposure to infectious disease.

(3) The health care facility shall designate an infectious disease control officer and an alternate who will be responsible for maintaining the required records and notifying designated officers in accordance with the provisions of this part and the rules promulgated under this part and shall provide the names of the designated officer and the alternate to the department.

(4) The emergency services organization shall name a designated officer and an alternate and shall provide their names to the department.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 476, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 146, L. 1999.

**50-16-712. Notification to mortuary personnel -- exposure to infectious disease.**

(1) A coroner, a health care facility, or a health care provider, as defined in 50-16-1003, shall disclose information regarding the status of a deceased individual with regard to an infectious disease to personnel from a mortuary licensed under Title 37, chapter 19, at the time of transfer of the dead body or as soon after transfer as possible. The information must include whether the individual had an infectious disease at the time of death and the nature of the infectious disease.

(2) The mortuary personnel who receive the information provided in subsection (1) may not disclose the information except for purposes related directly to the preparation and disposition of the dead body.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 396, L. 1995.

## Part 8

### Health Care information Privacy Requirements for Providers Subject to HIPAA

**50-16-801. Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) health care information is personal and sensitive information that if improperly used or released may do significant harm to a patient's interests in privacy and health care or other interests;

(2) the enactment of federal health care privacy legislation and the adoption of rules pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq., provide significant privacy protection for health care information with respect to health care providers subject to HIPAA;

(3) for health care providers subject to the health care information privacy protections of HIPAA, the applicability of the provisions of Title 50, chapter 16, part 5, relating to health care privacy is unnecessary and may result in significant practical difficulties;

(4) it is in the best interest of the citizens of Montana to have certain requirements, with respect to the use or release of health care information by health care providers, that are more restrictive than or additional to the health care privacy protections of HIPAA.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 396, L. 2003.

**50-16-802. Applicability.** This part applies only to health care providers subject to the health care information privacy protections of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq., and administrative rules adopted in connection with HIPAA.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 396, L. 2003.

**50-16-803. Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Health care" means care, services, or supplies provided by a health care provider that are related to the health of an individual. Health care includes but is not limited to the following:

(a) preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative, maintenance, or palliative care and counseling, service, assessment, or procedure with respect to an individual's physical or mental condition; or

(b) the sale or dispensing of any drug, device, equipment, or other item in accordance with a prescription.

(2) "Health care facility" means a hospital, clinic, nursing home, laboratory, office, or similar place where a health care provider provides health care to patients.

(3) "Health care information" means any information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium, that:

(a) is created or received by a health care provider;

(b) relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual or to the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to the individual; and

(c) identifies or with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual.

(4) "Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

(5) "Patient" means an individual who receives or has received health care. The term includes a deceased individual who has received health care.

(6) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision or agency, or other legal or commercial entity.

(7) "Reasonable fee" means the charge, as provided for in 50-16-816, for duplicating, searching for, or handling recorded health care information.

**History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 396, L. 2003.**

**50-16-804. Representative of deceased patient's estate.** A personal representative of a deceased patient's estate may exercise all of the deceased patient's rights under this part. If there is no personal representative or upon discharge of the personal representative, a deceased patient's rights under this part may be exercised by the surviving spouse, a parent, an adult child, an adult sibling, or any other person who is authorized by law to act for the deceased person.

**History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 396, L. 2003.**

**50-16-805. Disclosure of information for workers' compensation and occupational disease claims and law enforcement purposes.** (1) To the extent provided in 39-71-604 and 50-16-527, a signed claim for workers' compensation or occupational disease benefits authorizes disclosure to the workers' compensation insurer, as defined in 39-71-116, by the health care provider.

(2) A health care provider may disclose health care information about an individual for law enforcement purposes if the disclosure is to:

(a) federal, state, or local law enforcement authorities to the extent required by law; or

(b) a law enforcement officer about the general physical condition of a patient being treated in a health care facility if the patient was injured by the possible criminal act of another.

**History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 396, L. 2003.**

**50-16-806 through 50-16-810 reserved.**

**50-16-811. When health care information available by compulsory process.** (1) Health care information may not be disclosed by a health care provider pursuant to compulsory legal process or discovery in any judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding unless:

(a) the patient has authorized in writing the release of the health care information in response to compulsory process or a discovery request;

(b) the patient has waived the right to claim confidentiality for the health care information sought;

(c) the patient is a party to the proceeding and has placed the patient's physical or mental condition in issue;

(d) the patient's physical or mental condition is relevant to the execution or witnessing of a will or other document;

(e) the physical or mental condition of a deceased patient is placed in issue by any person claiming or defending through or as a beneficiary of the patient;

(f) a patient's health care information is to be used in the patient's commitment proceeding;

(g) the health care information is for use in any law enforcement proceeding or investigation in which a health care provider is the subject or a party, except that health care information so obtained may not be used in any proceeding against the patient unless the matter relates to payment for the patient's health care or unless authorized under subsection (1)(i);

(h) a court has determined that particular health care information is subject to compulsory legal process or discovery because the party seeking the information has demonstrated that there is a compelling state interest that outweighs the patient's privacy interest; or

(i) the health care information is requested pursuant to an investigative subpoena issued under 46-4-301 or similar federal law.

(2) This part does not authorize the disclosure of health care information by compulsory legal process or discovery in any judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding where disclosure is otherwise prohibited by law.

**History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 396, L. 2003.**

**50-16-812. Method of compulsory process.** (1) Unless the court for good cause shown determines that the notification should be waived or modified, if health care information is sought under 50-16-811(1)(b), (1)(d), or (1)(e) or in a civil proceeding or investigation under 50-16-811(1)(h), the person seeking compulsory process or discovery shall mail a notice by first-class mail to the patient or the patient's attorney of record of the compulsory process or discovery request at least 10 days before presenting the certificate required under subsection (2) of this section to the health care provider.

(2) Service of compulsory process or discovery requests upon a health care provider must be accompanied by a written certification, signed by the person seeking to obtain health care information or by the person's authorized representative, identifying at least one subsection of 50-16-811 under which compulsory process or discovery is being sought. The certification must also state, in the case of information sought under 50-16-811(1)(b), (1)(d), or (1)(e) or in a civil proceeding under 50-16-811(1)(h), that the requirements of subsection (1) of this section for notice have been met. A person may sign the certification only if the person reasonably believes that the subsection of 50-16-811 identified in the certification provides an appropriate basis for the use of compulsory process or discovery. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the health care provider shall maintain a copy of the process and the written certification as a permanent part of the patient's health care information.

(3) In response to service of compulsory process or discovery requests, when authorized by law, a health care provider may deny access to the requested health care information. If access to requested health care information is denied by the health care provider, the health care provider shall submit to the court by affidavit or other reasonable means an explanation of why the health care provider believes that the information should be protected from disclosure.

(4) When access to health care information is denied, the court may order disclosure of health care information, with or without restrictions as to its use, as the court considers necessary. In deciding whether to order disclosure, the court shall consider the explanation submitted by the health care provider and any arguments presented by interested parties.

(5) A health care provider required to disclose health care information pursuant to compulsory process may charge a reasonable fee, not to exceed the fee provided for in 50-16-816, and may deny examination or copying of the information until the fee is paid.

(6) Production of health care information under 50-16-811 and this section does not in itself constitute a waiver of any privilege, objection, or defense existing under other law or rule of evidence or procedure.

**History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 396, L. 2003.**

**50-16-813 through 50-16-815 reserved.**

**50-16-816. Reasonable fees.** Unless prohibited by federal law, a reasonable fee for providing copies of health care information may not exceed 50 cents for each page for a paper

copy or photocopy. A reasonable fee may include an administrative fee that may not exceed \$15 for searching and handling recorded health care information. **History:** En. Sec. 22, Ch. 396, L. 2003.

**50-16-817. Civil remedies.** (1) A person aggrieved by a violation of this part may maintain an action for relief as provided in this section.

(2) The court may order the health care provider or other person to comply with this part and may order any other appropriate relief.

(3) A disciplinary or punitive action may not be taken against a health care provider or the provider's employee or agent who brings evidence of a violation of this part to the attention of the patient or an appropriate authority.

(4) If the court determines that there is a violation of this part, the aggrieved person is entitled to recover damages for pecuniary losses sustained as a result of the violation and, in addition, if the violation results from willful or grossly negligent conduct, the aggrieved person may recover not in excess of \$5,000, exclusive of any pecuniary loss.

(5) If a plaintiff prevails, the court may assess reasonable attorney fees and all other expenses reasonably incurred in the litigation.

(6) An action under this part is barred unless the action is commenced within 3 years after the cause of action accrues.

(7) A health care provider who relies in good faith upon certification pursuant to 50-16-812 is considered to have received reasonable assurances and is not liable for disclosures made in reliance on that certification.

**History:** En. Sec. 23, Ch. 396, L. 2003.

**50-16-818. Good faith.** A person authorized to act as a health care representative for an individual with respect to the individual's health care information shall act in good faith to represent the best interests of the individual.

**History:** En. Sec. 24, Ch. 396, L. 2003.

#### **Part Cross-References**

Right of privacy guaranteed, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.  
Uniform health care information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

### **Part 9 Reserved**

### **Part 10**

#### **AIDS Education and Prevention**

**50-16-1001. Short title.** This part may be cited as the "AIDS Prevention Act".

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 614, L. 1989.

**50-16-1002. Statement of purpose.** (1) The legislature recognizes that the epidemic of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, the causative agent of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and related medical conditions constitutes a serious danger to the public health and welfare. In the absence of a vaccine or a cure and because of the sexual and intravenous drug use behaviors by which the virus is predominately spread, control of the epidemic is dependent on the education of those infected or at risk for infection.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that education directed at preventing the transmission of HIV be provided to those infected and at risk of infection and to entreat such persons to come forward to determine their HIV infection status and to obtain appropriate education.

**History:** En. Sec. 2, Ch. 614, L. 1989.

**50-16-1003. Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "AIDS" means acquired immune deficiency syndrome as further defined by the department in accordance with standards promulgated by the centers for disease control of the United States public health service.

(2) "Contact" means a person who has been exposed to the test subject in a manner, voluntary or involuntary, that may allow HIV transmission in accordance with modes of transmission recognized by the centers for disease control of the United States public health service.

(3) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(4) "Health care facility" means a health care institution, private or public, including but not limited to a hospital, nursing home, clinic, blood bank, blood center, sperm bank, or laboratory.

(5) "Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state or who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of another state to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession. The term does not include a person who provides health care solely through the sale or dispensing of drugs or medical devices.

(6) "HIV" means the human immunodeficiency virus, identified as the causative agent of AIDS, and all HIV and HIV-related viruses that damage the cellular branch of the human immune or neurological systems and leave the infected person immunodeficient or neurologically impaired.

(7) "HIV-related condition" means a chronic disease resulting from infection with HIV, including but not limited to AIDS and asymptomatic seropositivity for HIV.

(8) "HIV-related test" means a test approved by the federal food and drug administration, including but not limited to an enzyme immunoassay and a western blot, that is designed to detect the presence of HIV or antibodies to HIV.

(9) "Informed consent" means a freely executed oral or written grant of permission by the subject of an HIV-related test, by the subject's legal guardian, or, if there is no legal guardian and the subject of the test is unconscious or otherwise mentally incapacitated, by the subject's next of kin or significant other or a person designated by the subject in hospital records to act on the person's behalf to perform an HIV-related test after the receipt of pretest counseling.

(10) "Legal guardian" means a person appointed by a court to assume legal authority for another who has been found incapacitated or, in the case of a minor, a person who has legal custody of the minor.

(11) "Local board" means a county, city, city-county, or district board of health.

(12) "Local health officer" means a county, city, city-county, or district health officer appointed by the local board.

(13) "Next of kin" means an individual who is a parent, adult child, grandparent, adult sibling, or legal spouse of a person.

(14) "Person" means an individual, corporation, organization, or other legal entity.

(15) "Posttest counseling" means counseling, conducted at the time that the HIV-related test results are given, and includes, at a minimum, written materials provided by the department.

(16) "Pretest counseling" means the provision of counseling to the subject prior to conduct of an HIV-related test, including, at a minimum, written materials developed and provided by the department.

(17) "Release of test results" means a written authorization for disclosure of HIV-related test results that:

(a) is signed and dated by the person tested or the person authorized to act for the person tested; and

(b) specifies the nature of the information to be disclosed and to whom disclosure is authorized.

(18) "Significant other" means an individual living in a current spousal relationship with another individual but who is not legally a spouse of that individual.

**History:** En. Sec. 3, Ch. 614, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 544, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 288, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 197, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 524, L. 1997.

**50-16-1004. AIDS, HIV-related conditions, and HIV infection to be treated as other communicable diseases.** It is the intent of the legislature to treat AIDS, HIV-related conditions, and HIV infection in the same manner as other communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases, by adopting the most currently accepted public health practices with regard to testing, reporting, partner notification, and disease intervention. Nothing in this section is intended to prohibit the department from allowing testing for HIV infection to be performed and reported without identification of the subject of the test. The department shall adopt rules, as provided in 50-1-202, to reflect this policy.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 524, L. 1997.

## **Cross-References**

Disclosure of communicable diseases, 50-16-603.

**50-16-1005 and 50-16-1006 reserved.**

**50-16-1007. Testing -- counseling -- informed consent -- penalty.** (1) An HIV-related test may be ordered only by a health care provider and only after receiving the informed consent of:

- (a) the subject of the test;
- (b) the subject's legal guardian;
- (c) the subject's next of kin or significant other if:
  - (i) the subject is unconscious or otherwise mentally incapacitated;
  - (ii) there is no legal guardian;
  - (iii) there are medical indications of an HIV-related condition; and
  - (iv) the test is advisable in order to determine the proper course of treatment of the subject; or

- (d) the subject's next of kin or significant other or the person, if any, designated by the subject in hospital records to act on the subject's behalf if:

- (i) the subject is in a hospital; and
  - (ii) the circumstances in subsections (1)(c)(i) through (1)(c)(iv) exist.

(2) When a health care provider orders an HIV-related test, the provider also certifies that informed consent has been received prior to ordering an HIV-related test.

(3) Before the subject of the test gives informed consent, the health care provider ordering the test or the provider's designee shall give pretest counseling to:

- (a) the subject;
- (b) the subject's legal guardian;
- (c) the subject's next of kin or significant other if:
  - (i) the subject is unconscious or otherwise mentally incapacitated; and
  - (ii) there is no guardian; or
- (d) the subject's next of kin or significant other or the person, if any, designated by the subject in hospital records to act on the subject's behalf if:

- (i) the subject is in the hospital; and
  - (ii) the circumstances in subsections (1)(c)(i) and (1)(c)(ii) exist.

(4) A health care provider who does not provide HIV-related tests on an anonymous basis shall inform each person who wishes to be tested that anonymous testing is available at one of the counseling-testing sites established by the department, or elsewhere.

(5) The subject of an HIV-related test or any of the subject's representatives authorized by subsection (1) to act in the subject's stead shall designate, after giving informed consent, a health care provider to receive the results of an HIV-related test. The designated health care provider shall inform the subject or the subject's representative of the results in person.

(6) At the time that the subject of a test or the subject's representative is given the test results, the health care provider or the provider's designee shall give the subject or the subject's representative posttest counseling.

(7) If a test is performed as part of an application for insurance, the insurance company shall obtain the informed consent in writing and ensure that:

- (a) negative results can be obtained by the subject or the subject's representative upon request; and

- (b) positive results are returned to the health care provider designated by the subject or the subject's representative.

(8) A minor may consent or refuse to consent to be the subject of an HIV-related test, pursuant to 41-1-402.

(9) Subsections (1) through (6) do not apply to:

- (a) the performance of an HIV-related test by a health care provider or health care facility that procures, processes, distributes, or uses a human body part donated for a purpose specified under Title 72, chapter 17, if the test is necessary to assure medical acceptability of the gift for the purposes intended;

- (b) the performance of an HIV-related test for the purpose of research if the testing is performed in a manner by which the identity of the test subject is not known and may not be retrieved by the researcher;

- (c) the performance of an HIV-related test when:

- (i) the subject of the test is unconscious or otherwise mentally incapacitated;
  - (ii) there are medical indications of an HIV-related condition;
  - (iii) the test is advisable in order to determine the proper course of treatment of the subject; and
  - (iv) none of the individuals listed in subsection (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d) exists or is available within a reasonable time after the test is determined to be advisable; or
- (d) the performance of an HIV-related test conducted pursuant to 50-18-107 or 50-18-108, with the exception that the pretest and posttest counseling must still be given.

(10) (a) If an agent or employee of a health care facility, a health care provider with privileges at the health care facility, or a person providing emergency services who is described in 50-16-702 has been voluntarily or involuntarily exposed to a patient in a manner that may allow infection by HIV by a mode of transmission recognized by the centers for disease control of the United States public health service, the physician of the patient shall, upon request of the exposed person, notify the patient of the exposure and seek informed consent in accordance with guidelines of the centers for disease control for an HIV-related test of the patient. If informed consent cannot be obtained, the health care facility, in accordance with the infectious disease exposure guidelines of the health care facility, may, without the consent of the patient, conduct the test on previously drawn blood or previously collected bodily fluids to determine if the patient is in fact infected. A health care facility is not required to perform a test authorized in this subsection. If a test is conducted pursuant to this subsection, the health care facility shall inform the patient of the results and provide the patient with posttest counseling. The patient may not be charged for a test performed pursuant to this subsection. The results of a test performed pursuant to this subsection may not be made part of the patient's record and are subject to 50-16-1009(1).

(b) For the purposes of this subsection (10), "informed consent" means an agreement that is freely executed, either orally or in writing, by the subject of an HIV-related test, by the subject's legal guardian, or, if there is no legal guardian and the subject is incapacitated, by the subject's next of kin, significant other, or a person designated by the subject in hospital records to act on the subject's behalf.

(11) A knowing or purposeful violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months, or both.

**History:** En. Sec. 4, Ch. 614, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 544, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 476, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 524, L. 1997.

#### **50-16-1008. Testing of donors of organs, tissues, and semen required -- penalty.**

(1) Prior to donation of an organ, semen, or tissues, HIV-related testing of a prospective donor, in accordance with nationally accepted standards adopted by the department by rule, is required unless the transplantation of an indispensable organ is necessary to save a patient's life and there is not sufficient time to perform an HIV-related test.

(2) A knowing or purposeful violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment of up to 6 months, or both.

**History:** En. Sec. 5, Ch. 614, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 544, L. 1991.

#### **Cross-References**

Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, Title 72, ch. 17.

**50-16-1009. Confidentiality of records -- notification of contacts -- penalty for unlawful disclosure.** (1) A person may not disclose or be compelled to disclose the identity of a subject of an HIV-related test or the results of a test in a manner that permits identification of the subject of the test, except to the extent allowed under the Uniform Health Care Information Act, Title 50, chapter 16, part 5, the Government Health Care Information Act, Title 50, chapter 16, part 6, or applicable federal law.

(2) If a health care provider informs the subject of an HIV-related test that the results are positive, the provider shall encourage the subject to notify persons who are potential contacts. If the subject is unable or unwilling to notify all contacts, the health care provider may ask the subject to disclose voluntarily the identities of the contacts and to authorize notification of those contacts by a health care provider. A notification may state only that the contact may have been exposed to HIV and may not include the time or place of possible exposure or the identity of the subject of the test.

(3) A person who discloses or compels another to disclose confidential health care information in violation of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$1,000 or imprisonment for 1 year, or both.

**History:** En. Sec. 6, Ch. 614, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 544, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 396, L. 2003.

**50-16-1010 through 50-16-1012 reserved.**

**50-16-1013. Civil remedy.** (1) A person aggrieved by a violation of this part has a right of action in the district court and may recover for each violation:

(a) against a person who negligently violates a provision of this part, damages of \$5,000 or actual damages, whichever is greater;

(b) against a person who intentionally or recklessly violates a provision of this part, damages of \$20,000 or actual damages, whichever is greater;

(c) reasonable attorney fees; and

(d) other appropriate relief, including injunctive relief.

(2) An action under this section must be commenced within 3 years after the cause of action accrues.

(3) The department may maintain a civil action to enforce this part in which the court may order any relief permitted under subsection (1).

(4) Nothing in this section limits the rights of a subject of an HIV-related test to recover damages or other relief under any other applicable law or cause of action.

(5) Nothing in this part may be construed to impose civil liability or criminal sanctions for disclosure of an HIV-related test result in accordance with any reporting requirement for a diagnosed case of AIDS or an HIV-related condition by the department or the centers for disease control of the United States public health service.

**History:** En. Sec. 7, Ch. 614, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 544, L. 1991.

#### **Cross-References**

Statutes of limitations, Title 27, ch. 2.

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.